

EDUCATION 400: Adventure Experience

Experience: The entire class – learning about the Mississippi and preparing to be part of the 100-day adventure in fall, on the boat or on the shore.

Reflection Assignments:

At the start of the term: Experiential learning is enhanced and strengthened by reflection. These prompts are intended to help you gain more from what you read, do and experience. Please take time to step away from electronic devices and the business of everyday life (I know it's hard, but it's worth doing). Take some time to think and reflect. Then come back and write a reflection. Length is not the criterion on which these will be evaluated; depth is. If you do not have much inside to process, you might think about why that is and write about that.

- Reflection Prompt: What is your connection to the Mississippi River?
- Things to think about are
 - Personal experiences with the MR and how those have shaped who you are.
 - What you know about the MR and how this connects to you as an individual.
 - What pre-conceived ideas you have about the MR, where those came from and how you think that affects you.

At the end of the term: Same preface to the reflection

- Reflection Prompt: What is your connection to the Mississippi River? How does your narrative intersect with others' narratives of the Mississippi River?
 - You may wish to think about "others" as your classmates, Jordan, guest speakers, authors, historical figures... Also, think about the interconnectedness of domains.

Experience: Weekend row and camp trip to Blake Island (PA)

Reflection Assignment:

- What about your trip to Blake Island revealed how you define your sense of place?
- How did your trip to Blake Island challenge you to make associations between yourself and the environment around you?
- What moments from this trip would you use to explain your takeaway from the trip to someone who has never been to Blake Island?
- Things to consider:
 - You have read several adventure stories so far. What similarities/differences can you draw between these stories and your own experience on Blake Island?
 - Knowing that Chief Sealth (part of the Suquamish tribe), for whom the city of Seattle was named, was from there, how did it affect your feelings towards Blake Island?
 - Understanding that people come from all different places; how our own personal experience of one place can contribute to our understanding of another, foreign place.

Experience: Mississippi map party – Students created visual maps of the MR related to personal narratives/interests and shared them in a public event. This reflection was done as a class discussion (PA).

- How is your map representative of your connection to the MR?
- How do your teammates' maps expand or deepen your understanding of the MR?
- How have your experiences in this class changed your relationship to the MR?
- What features of this event would be helpful in fundraising efforts?
- What surprised you most about the response of the audience during the map party?
- What do you think could be improved upon about this event or change in the future for events like this?
- Why did you make your map the way you did?
- What are you most proud of about your map?
- What challenges did you encounter in creating your map?
- What was your creative process in making your map?
- Were there limitations you experienced in executing your project? (time, supplies, etc.)
- What surprised you most about this project?