

College Park Scholars
Science, Discovery and the Universe
Reflection Essay Advice: Spring

We require you, as freshmen:

1. to do service on Service Day;
2. to attend a colloquium every semester you are in Scholars;
3. to present a group project at the end of each semester;
4. to go on at least one SDU excursion as part of your living and learning experiences;
5. to attend Academic Showcase in the Spring;
6. to go to the Planetarium once during the year (usually with Section 101);

We suggest that you also:

1. volunteer when time permits;
2. go on more than one of the excursions we plan;
3. attend the social events we plan (usually twice per semester).

We required you to reflect on the excursions in the Fall. Now, in the Spring, we want your feedback on a larger scale. Take 2-3 pages (or more) and expound on your experience this year; you are also welcome to discuss your hopes and fears about your sophomore year.

We take your feedback extremely seriously. Such information is priceless when we attempt to improve one or another aspect of SDU and Scholars. As with last semester's reflection, you are encouraged to write in first person, i.e., don't use the standard passive writing style academics usually expect ("This happened. That happened."), but instead make this personal ("I did this. We did that").

Here are a few guideline questions to keep in mind while you compose this (you should write it as an essay, though, not a point-by-point Q&A!):

- What did you expect of Scholars and/or SDU in particular before you arrived? Were you surprised at what you found out?
- Have you learned anything that significantly opened up or altered your worldview?
- Have you enjoyed the experiences you had? ("No" is an acceptable answer, but in any case, explain why you enjoyed or didn't enjoy the experience.)
- Has SDU inspired, excited, frustrated or outraged you in some way?
- Has the staff been there when you most needed them? Were we helpful?
- Do you feel part of the Scholars and/or SDU community?
- What are you most looking forward to/apprehensive of for your sophomore year?

The essays are due by the last colloquium of the semester in May.