Essay #1: Summary & Reflection
15% of course grade
Due Dates: Summary component due Wednesday, 9/20 at the start of class
Complete draft due Monday, 9/25 at the start of class
Electronic copy due on Turnitin.com by Tuesday, 9/26 before 11:59 p.m.
Final print copy due Wednesday, 9/27 at the start of class
Length: about 1500 words (roughly 6+ pages)
Format: explained on the course web site (http://faculty.uml.edu/sbacker)

In this two-part assignment, you will first write a summary of “Finland’s School Success: What Americans Keep Ignoring” using the BOA method. Then, you will reflect upon the positions of author Anu Partanen, and demonstrate your understanding by providing present day examples of her positions along with your own thoughts (reflection). Your examples should be integrated using the sandwich method.

For this essay, I ask you to use a specific process (see linked Process handout). You will explain how this process did or didn’t work for you in a homework assignment after your essay is turned in, so taking notes as you go is advisable. Expect to be pushed out of your comfort zone.

What is the point of this assignment?
This assignment is designed to improve your abilities to:
★ read, understand, summarize, and analyze a college-level text
★ clearly describe appropriate examples with both concrete and abstract details
★ build substantial content from reflection

How can I assess my writing of this essay? How will you assess and grade it?
In addition to the universal grading rubric posted on the course web site, my evaluation of your literacy reflection will focus on four criteria. Please scroll to the next page and read the evaluation rubric before your last revision of your essay because knowing what I am looking for could help you make productive changes. You’ll print the rubric and attach it as the last page of your essay. Leave the form blank for me to fill out with my comments and suggestions.

I look forward to reading your first essays!
Your Objectives/My Evaluation

Print this sheet and staple it in as the last page of your essay. Your name goes on the BACK side of this sheet.

1. *Brevity, Objectivity, and Accuracy of your summary.*
   
   
   2. *Analysis of the positions of Anu Partanen and ability to find multiple present day examples that relate to her ideas and support your own reflection of them.*

   
   3. *Level of detail*
   
   Convey a precise impression through the use of concrete and abstract details.

   4. *Impact of first and last sentences and original title*
   
   Take advantage of the power positions of rhetoric.

   Overall comments: