

The Reflective Commentary

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The Reflective Commentary

A semi-formal report that accompanies a piece of creative writing (or a product) such as a short story. It allows students to reflect on preparation, process, research and writing style. The research normally involves reading published works, textbooks on the writing genre, and criticisms which can be in the form of journal articles. All commentaries contain a reference list, and unlike academic essays, are written in the first person. Students benefit by reflecting on their product

and process while gaining a better understanding of the narrative form, and from critically engaging with the genre and style. Tutors benefit by understanding the ideas and rationale behind the production of the creative piece, and by gauging the level of critical understanding of theories and criticisms focused on the chosen genre and narrative style.

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The Short Story

The short story is used as a form of assessment for Human Rights and Civil Liberties; International Comparative Project (Social Work); Law, Ethics and Policy; Comparative Research in Disaster Management; Management and Team Working in a Large Organisation; A History of International Organised Crime; and, Introduction to Nursing and its Fields of Practice. It offers an alternative approach to an essay, report or case study; for example, Human Rights and Civil Liberties students use it to demonstrate their understanding of

a law case by writing a fictive account of the situation. Students benefit by occupying the heads of the plaintiff, accused, judge or jury member; and engaging more with resources to produce a credible story. Tutors have noted an increase in grammar skills, and more careful editing and proof reading, and have enjoyed the marking process. Assistance is provided by creative writing lecturers.

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