**Critical Rationale Essay**

**Critical Rationale Assignment Description**

Must be a **minimum of 3 full pages**. Your essay should:

* Assesses how individual pieces of writing as well as the collective contents of the portfolio illustrate the student’s growth as a writer throughout English 102.
* Explains the stylistic and organizational choices made in the portfolio, i.e., the thoughtful and deliberate arrangement of all portfolio components.
* Illustrates an awareness of rhetorical choices across contexts and an understanding of course materials.
* Offers a deep and sustained critical reflection on the writing and revision process that resulted in these polished essays and other writings.

**Questions to consider as you write:**

In order to prepare for this assignment, you will need to reread your essays carefully. Consider the following questions as you read:

* How well do you understand how to persuade a reader of your argument? Does your writing reflect this?
* How did your writing skills develop over the 3 essays? Look at your thesis statements, and see if they became more complex and precise. How did your thesis statements change after my and your peer reviewer’s feedback?
* What trends did you see in your own writing? What techniques did you find yourself returning to? For instance, do you start your essays with a question? Do   
  you start with broad introduction that narrows to thesis? Do you rely on brief introductions? These all refer to your introduction, but do this type of   
  reflection throughout each essay.
* In what ways do you incorporate secondary material? Do you find it difficult to add someone else’s words? How did adding outside information affect your arguments?
* As you revised your essays, what did you pay the most attention to? What changed the most from draft to draft? Which essay did you think was the most successful? Why? Which essay was the least successful? Why?

These questions are here simply to help you. Do not feel obligated to answer all of them. Instead, use them as a way   
to jumpstart your reflection on your writing this semester. Also, feel free to incorporate material from your own essay assignments as evidence to support or illustrate your claim.

Enjoy this assignment! This is an opportunity you might not have again. The ability to “self-diagnose” your writing enables you to be more successful in writing for future genres.