



Summer 2023 Reflective Essay and Deliverables

Due August 15, 2023

Drop into [this folder](#). Make sure your name is on everything!

You committed to Summer 2023 in October. You then spent months developing a project based on curiosity, questions, decisions, commitment—transformation and leadership! Now it's time to reflect. What does all of this mean for you? Who do you want to be in the world? How do you want to engage and contribute? What is the future you're trying to create?

We take your word and your work seriously and know that you will, too, in approaching this final formal step for Summer 2023. Please complete your reflection while it's fresh and submit it by August 15. This timeline allows us to honor our word on the following commitments:

- We will read and respond to each reflection;
- We will draw on your reflections as we continue to support you in your leadership journey;
- We will reflect as staff on what we've learned and how to strengthen opportunities moving forward;
- We will communicate back to the community key learnings that surfaced.

If you're not able to submit these materials by August 15, email Vicki before that date with a counterproposal.

Vicki

Reflective Essay (suggested 5-7 double-spaced pages max):

Minimally, please address these:

1. What insights have you gained about transformational leadership, through Summer 2023 or through all your Robertson experiences?
2. Leadership comes through connection. What role(s) did your Summer Coach play in your Summer? How did you grow through this relationship?

Additionally, here is a long list of optional prompts. You don't need to respond to any of them--see what inspires you! You may find it helpful to read over your proposals to remind yourself of your motivations and goals.

- In light of our model of self—group—system:
 - What did you learn about *yourself* through Summer 2023? What did you learn about yourself as a student, a researcher, a collaborator, a community worker?
 - What did you learn about *groups*--communities, cohorts, teams, etc.? How did you have an impact on those around you? How did being part of a group impact you?
 - What insights did you gain about *systems*? Do you have new ways of thinking about the bigger picture? Did this summer give you ideas or practice in systems change?
- We expect that Summers offer a *disruption* from your usual activities. How did you address the challenges that come from disruption? How did you grow from this dynamic?
- In the proposal process, you wrote about what you wanted to learn, what you're *curious* about. What's the status? What questions are you asking now as a result of your experience?
- What *decisions or commitments* have come out of Summer 2023?
- As relevant, what did Exploration/Launch mean for you? Were you able to "explore" or "launch" in the ways you'd hoped—and were you able to do so in ways you hadn't expected?

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- We believe that *connection* is an essential element of leadership growth. What did “connection” mean for your summer? Maybe your summer helped connect the disparate pieces of your experience into a coherent whole. Maybe your summer resulted in new ways for you to connect with others. What does this mean for you now?
- How was your summer a practice in *integrity*? How were you good for your word, and when did you struggle?
- Leadership involves learning how to move from *reactions* to *chosen responses*. Did you experience that dynamic during the Summer?
- How will you move forward from Summer 2023? Discuss connections among Summer and your academic, professional, and/or extracurricular plans.

Alternative forms of reflection?

If an essay isn’t the best way for you to reflect, email Vicki to propose an alternative. You can write a short story or poem, do a piece of art, share an audio essay or video . . . this is *your* reflection on *your* summer. The most important part is that you create the opportunity to learn about your experience.

If you and Vicki agree on an alternative form, please provide a written “user’s guide” to accompany it, noting key features about your reflection. Without that, we might miss something.

Deliverables

As part of the proposal process, you declared a deliverable to turn in at the end of the Summer. These were the instructions: *Name the deliverable you’ll turn in to show us something about your experience. This should be something that arises from your actual activities, not something you create just to be a Robertson deliverable. Here are a few examples: a research report, a collection of poetry or photographs, personal statements for grad school applications, an annotated bibliography. A reflective essay does not count as a deliverable.*

- If your Deliverable is on a longer timetable (e.g., an honors thesis instead of an opening chapter), provide a progress report with regard to its completion.
- If the Deliverable you'll submit is not the one named in your proposal, please explain.

Drop your reflection and deliverables [here](#) by August 15.

Please share your essay with your Summer Coach. If you prefer not to do so, email Vicki.