

2nd Semester Reflective Letter

At the beginning of the year, you wrote about your past science experiences and your hopes and fears about taking Physics. Now it's time to reflect on how this year turned out for you. Please read what you wrote back in September as well as what I wrote you about my working assumptions as a teacher (which are reprinted on the back of this sheet), then write me a letter.

There is *no* minimum length. What I am looking for is an honest, thoughtful appraisal of yourself and this course. Please use specific examples and details to help make your letter more meaningful. This letter should be word processed and proofread. It is due on Friday, May 28th for Seniors, and Friday, June 4th for Juniors.

I've written some questions below that might serve as *guidelines* to help you do that. Please feel free to respond to any or all of them. Remember, you are writing me a letter, so don't just give answers to individual questions. Take the time to be introspective about your experiences and, above all, be as honest as possible. Whether you respond with positive comments or criticize the course (or your own participation), what you write will of course *not* affect your grade. I simply want you to tell me the truth about your experience in Physics so that we can both learn from it.

What have you learned about yourself as a person and as a learner? Do you know more now about how you learn and what works best for you? How motivated have you been? Have you enjoyed learning Physics or have you been going through the motions? Do you tend to learn (both in this class and in others) because you are genuinely interested in the material or because you are earning a grade? How well do you work with other people in the class? How self-directed have you become in your own learning?

How successful have you been in learning Physics? How much do you think you have truly learned in this class (as opposed to memorizing and forgetting)? How meaningful has the topics we have been exploring been for you? Have you found yourself thinking about them, or talking about them with other people outside of class? What do you think now about the hopes and fears you had at the beginning of the year?

How well has this course's structure served you? Do you think the working assumptions have been truly integrated into the course? Has the contract system been useful? Has the work been useful or has it felt like busywork? Have the tests seemed a fair means of assessing what you've learned? Do the grades you've received reflect how much you've really learned? Have the labs been helpful in getting a more concrete understanding of the material.