Connection and Reflection

Connection and Reflection represents a deepening understanding that a student develops by making meaningful connections to course content and using that knowledge to reflect on their own experiences, perspectives, and the world around us.

Courses aligned with the Connection and Reflection pillar provide students an opportunity to connect, reflect, and communicate their perspectives across a variety of disciplines and topics. The assignments chosen for assessment of this Pillar should identify the specifics of the types of connections, mode of communication, and nature of reflection students should produce for this assignment. For example, the rubric is not narrowly focused on interdisciplinary connections, but courses aligned with this pillar may identify assignments for assessment that focus on interdisciplinary connections as part of the "course content" described in the rubric. Likewise, Effective Communication focuses the conventions of the format represented by the assignment chosen for assessment, as well as general clarity of conveying ideas in that format. Reflection focuses on the depth of students' contemplation on the specific topics and/or methods assigned.

Connection and Reflection Rubric

	Proficient	Emerging	Insufficient	Does Not Meet Minimum Benchmark
Connection	Meaningfully synthesizes examples from course concepts to deepen understanding.	Effectively describes examples from course content, making some connections to further understanding.	Includes examples from course content, but does not make connections to further understanding.	Minimal or no engagement with course content, as assigned.
Effective Communication	Consistently and clearly communicates by using conventions appropriate to the assigned format, including organization, tone, language/syntax, and stylistic choices.	Generally communicates with clarity using conventions appropriate to the assigned format, although some issues that impede understanding may be present.	Fulfills the assigned format, but issues with organization, language/syntax, or other conventions significantly impede understanding.	Does not fulfill the assigned format.
Reflection	Explores experiences, ideas, or perspectives and/or the world beyond the classroom to clearly articulate insights.	Recognizes new perspectives on experiences/ideas and/or the world, but with limited exploration or articulation.	Identifies experiences/ideas and/or aspects of the world outside the classroom, but with little or no exploration or contemplation.	Does not include reflection on experiences/ideas and/or the world outside the classroom.