Reflective Essay: Book Talks

A “reflective essay”—a piece of writing you complete at the end of the process—is an opportunity for you to look back on a personal experience that you went through and explore its significance. For this reflective essay, the personal experience you went through is Book Talks.

Before you write your essay, collect all of your materials: Book Talk rubrics, classroom library checkout list, Book Talk overview sheet, etc.

Instructions:
Use all of the Book Talk information you gathered to help you remember and think about your experience with Book Talks. As you review them, think about the following:

- What are Book Talks?
- How was I evaluated?
- When Book Talks first started, how did I feel about it then?
- What beliefs did I have about myself as a reader and public speaker at that time?
- How have those beliefs changed throughout the weeks I have done Book Talks?
- How does what I went through while doing Book Talks apply to life, in general? In other words, how does what I learned about myself and from others during Book Talks apply to other aspects of life?
- If I had to do Book Talks again, would I have done everything the same way? If so, why? If not, why not?
- If I did not do Book Talks, why did I not do them? What can I learn about myself from this?

Introduction
- Start with a “hook,” an opening sentence that grabs the reader’s attention
- Build background by **briefly** describing Book Talks. What are they, exactly?
- Write a thesis that addresses the issues you were asked to reflect upon.

WARNING: Don’t focus so much on explaining how to do Book Talks that you forget to reflect on the experience you went through.

Body
- Write three well-developed body paragraphs, each one related to one of the three parts you mentioned in your thesis.
- Give specific examples to explain what you are trying to say.

Conclusion
- Restate your thesis. Sum up what you have said. The essay should feel “finished.”