Reflective Essay: Memoir Unit

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 the Memoir Unit. Before you write your essay, collect all of your materials: Memoir Prompt rubrics, Memoir Prompt Assignment Sheets, your memoir writing, etc.

Instructions:
Look over all of the information you gathered and begin to evaluate your learning experiences, good and bad. This self-evaluation is important, as it forms the basis for your reflective essay.

Don’t treat the following questions as “questions to answer” but, rather, as ways to help you to focus your essay:

- How would you describe the Memoir Unit to a person who was not from our class?
- How were students evaluated during the course of this unit?
- When the Memoir Unit first started, how did you feel about it then?
- What beliefs did you have about yourself as a writer at the beginning of the unit?
- As you went through the weeks of writing to the prompts, giving and receiving feedback on writing, how did those beliefs change or stay the same? Were there some surprises or challenges?
- What meaning do you think your sharing of your memoirs had on your audience? How well were the experiences from your life conveyed to those who didn’t go through the same experience with you?
- How does what you learned about yourself and from others during the Memoir Unit apply to other aspects of life? How were you affected as a student? How were you affected as a person?
- If you had to do the Memoir Unit again, would you have done everything the same way? If so, why? If not, why not?

Introduction
Start with a “hook”.
Build background by briefly describing the Memoir unit.
Craft a thesis that addresses issues you were asked to reflect upon in the “Instructions” section.

Body
Write three well-developed body paragraphs, related to your thesis. Use topic sentences. Give specific examples to explain what you are trying to say. Above all…..BE THOUGHTFUL.

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