

Inventor's Reflections and Analyses

This is a guide to help you write your reflections. It is important to remember that these are just guiding questions. You want to show your mastery of the design process, and provide illustrations/pictures in detail, to help the reader learn about your build and ideas. The most important feature that is gained from your response, is what you have learned and how you will use it next time in designing something.

1. What were your greatest challenges? Why? How did they happen and how did you overcome each one? Write in detail about each challenge along the design process. It is important to note these so that you can refer back to your writing to avoid the same challenges and view your solutions. For each solution, write about how you came up with them and why. Don't just tell, but rather explain.
2. What were your ah ha moments. Here is your opportunity to really talk about your discoveries and where they came from- books, real-life examples, peers, teachers, magazines, etc. You might have made some discoveries based on connections you have to other projects from class or readings. Talk about when you had the ah ha moment- what happened, what did this discovery lead to, and what did you do because of the discovery.
3. Lastly, think about how you will approach the next project differently based on your previous learnings. Describe in detail what it is you will change. How are you doing with time management, with each step of the design process (look over your TMI sheet and think about the elements for each of the three phases) and with not being happy with a mediocre build. Think about materials, the emotions you go through when things don't go well, when they do go well, and when you are stumped. This is the place where you write a note to yourself on how to be a better inventor/engineer. Provide details and examples from your last project and help me and you understand how you can achieve greater heights.