

My PoL is scheduled for _____ on _____.
(time) (date)

Mid-Year Presentations of Learning

January 15-17, 2014

Purpose: Your PoL is an opportunity to reflect on your experience as a Sophomore so far. In your PoL, you will identify goals, challenges, and think deeply about your actions to discover strategies for overcoming your obstacles and evolving as a learner.

Format: Your PoL will be in the format of a *Dilemma Consultancy*. You will invite four people to be participants in the consultancy, one of whom must be a member of your family or household. Select people who have unique perspectives on you and your work, such as people who have worked with you or have a relationship with you outside of class. One of your Sophomore teachers will facilitate the protocol.

PoL Documents: Your PoL will be assessed by the quality of your preparation and summary documents. Please submit these to your G&G Log.

Preparation:

1. Dilemma Brainstorm / Mini-Reflections on Sophomore Habits (see handout)

2. Dilemma Question

Write a question that explains the challenge you are facing, and the question you have about how to move forward. This question will frame the discussion for your PoL.

3. Explanation of Dilemma (one page)

Write a detailed description of your dilemma. This includes:

- What is the background leading up to your dilemma? Has this been an ongoing dilemma, or something that developed more recently?
- How does your dilemma impact your life? at school? at home?
- How does your dilemma impact your relationships?
- What strategies have you already attempted to address your dilemma? Have they been effective? Why or why not?

4. Artifacts of Learning

Select 1-3 artifacts that relate to your dilemma. This could be a tool that you use (planner or binder), a project/assignment, an email, or a reflection that you have done throughout the first semester.

Summary:

1. Reflection of Experience (2 paragraphs)

Describe the experience of the consultancy. Whose contributions could you recognize? Was there a moment in the consultancy that felt especially difficult, rewarding, or surprising? Did the consultancy stay focused on your dilemma? What could have made it a better experience for you?

2. Goals & Growth Summary with Strategies and Assessment

Make 1-2 goals for the second semester based on your consultancy. Include a plan or strategy that you are committed to trying, as well as how you will be able to tell if you are successful with meeting your goals. Avoid creating general goals, as they are hard to assess. For example, instead of saying, "Stop procrastinating," state, "I will spend 45 minutes every day doing homework or reading."

Mini-Reflections on the Sophomore Habits of the Heart and Mind

Consider your favorite way of reflecting. Do you like to journal? Draw? Talk? For your PoL preparation, use a method of reflecting that works for you.

I. Reflect on each Sophomore habit. For each habit, consider:

- A) Definition: How do I define this habit?
- B) Situation: What project/situation did I learn or use this habit?
- C) Evidence: What learning artifact demonstrates that and how?

II. After you prepare your habit reflections, consider:

- A) Which habit was the most difficult to find evidence for? Why do you think that is?
- B) What blindspots or areas of struggle came up as you reflected on each habit?
- C) What habit or area do you want to work on? Why?
- D) What obstacles are you facing this year personally, academically, or socially? What strategies have you already attempted to implement? Have they been effective or ineffective? Why do you think that?

Sophomore Year Guiding Habits of Heart and Mind

Support - Do I know my role in a group? How am I contributing?

Support is the habit of working effectively with others, and accepting and giving appropriate assistance.

Positivity - How can this be a positive experience? How can I make the best of this?

Positivity is the habit of approaching each situation with optimism and an open mind. It means finding ways to make every situation constructive, rather than focusing on destructive or negative thoughts.

Acceptance - Do I accept myself? Do I accept others?

Acceptance is the habit of acknowledging and appreciating differences, whether in personality, appearances, or work habits.

Maturity - What are the consequences of my actions?

Maturity is the habit of considering the best way to handle every situation, and thinking about the consequences of your actions before committing them.

Balance - How am I balancing my time and energy? Do I have internal peace and stability?

Balance is the habit of managing your life so that it addresses your values in proportion to your time. It is the habit of making time for what is important, and is characterized by emotional steadiness.

Understanding - Do I understand? How can I deepen my thinking?

Understanding is the habit of considering multiple points of view on people or projects. This habit carefully assesses ideas and actions to take them deeper.

Respect - Do I care about others? Do I care about my environment?

Respect is the habit of recognizing others and your environment. It is truly seeing, and being willing to accept differences and offer genuine concern.

Productivity - How am I managing my time and energy? What am I producing?

Productivity is the habit of using your time and energy diligently so that you complete your work on-time, with quality and care.

Consultancy Protocol

Time: 20 minutes

Roles:

Presenter (whose dilemma/question is being discussed by the group)

Facilitator (who keeps time, facilitates, and also participates)

Participants (who listen, question, and discuss the dilemma)

Norms:

- Hard on the content, soft on the people
- Share the air (or “step up, step back”)
- Be kind, helpful and specific

Protocol:

1. Sharing of Dilemma (3 min.) The presenter presents an explanation of their dilemma. S/he poses the dilemma question for the group. Participants are silent.
2. Silent Review and Preparation (1 min.) Participants glance over the dilemma document and reflect on what they would like to contribute to the feedback session, particularly in relation to the presenter’s questions. They identify feedback, as well as questions they may have for the presenter. All participants work silently.
3. Questions: Clarifying and Probing (6 min.) Participants have an opportunity to first ask “clarifying” questions and then “probing” questions.
 - Clarifying Questions are for the group’s understanding. They have short, factual answers and the presenter can answer them without pausing to think. Some examples: “How many...?” “When will...?”
 - Probing Questions are for the presenter, to help expand his/her thinking or understand the dilemma better. They are not advice in disguise (such as “Have you thought about...”). Examples of probing questions are: “What is your thinking behind...” “What are you hoping comes of...” “What significant moments stand out for you?”
4. Discussion: Warm and Cool Feedback and Suggestions (8 min.) Participants share feedback while the presenter is silent and takes notes. Participants should begin by sharing strengths and then raising questions and suggesting ideas for how to confront the challenge. (Note: The facilitator may need to remind participants of the presenter’s focusing questions, which should be posted for all to see.)
5. Response (2 min.) The presenter shares what struck him/her and possible next steps..