
The aim of the reflexive essay is to evaluate your understanding of the themes and topics covered by the module from the point of view of **method** and **approach**. In other words, you are not being asked to present an argument about the past or an interpretation of the past as you would in a standard essay. Instead, you are asked to reflect on and then present an argument as to why a particular approach or method is the most effective way to arrive at that argument or interpretation. In sum the

How do we do history?

Why do we

do history?

In the course of your History degree, the reflexive essay is usually connected with work undertaken for collaborative research in preparation for a group presentation.

notes from personal tutor meetings, mentoring meetings, meetings with library staff etc

records of skills exercises, tests and audits undertaken through the [Sussex Skills Hub](#)

anything else you find relevant to the development of the historian's craft: this might be examples of reading that have especially helped or inspired you; or it might be information or ideas shared with your fellow students in a seminar

You can choose to keep this material in physical form in a folder or portfolio, or you might consider using online tools for collecting information over time such as [Padlet](#) or [OneNote](#) (part of the Microsoft Office365 suite which the University uses widely). You can

present a structured argument which defends the position you have taken, and the choices you have made.

In order to support your argument, you might draw on the following types of evidence:

Evidence of reading from secondary sources that address research methods and issues. Did you encounter any of the problems discussed by these sources, or find their reflections insightful?

Relevant material from your Skills Portfolio which helps show how you

skills, methods and approach, and your progression in mastering them?

Evidence of how you thought through particular methodological, philosophical, theoretical or political issues which shaped your approach to the group research

Examples of how you searched for, collected and ordered material BUT
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