

# Reflective writing

## Audience, purpose, style

Academic Writing  
Faculty of Philology

# Reflective writing and reading journals

Harry stared at the stone basin. The contents had returned to their original, silvery white state, swirling and rippling beneath his gaze.

“What is it?” Harry asked shakily.

“This? It is called a Pensieve,” said Dumbledore. “I sometimes find, and I am sure you know the feeling, that I simply have too many thoughts and memories crammed into my mind.”

“Err,” said Harry who couldn’t truthfully say that he had ever felt anything of the sort.

“At these times” said Dumbledore, indicating the stone basin, “I use the Pensieve. One simply siphons the excess thoughts from one’s mind, pours them into a basin, and examines them at one’s leisure. It becomes easier to spot patterns and links, you understand, when they are in this form.”

(Rowling 518-9 )

# What is reflection?

- “... a form of mental processing with a purpose and/or anticipated outcome that is applied to relatively complex or unstructured ideas for which there is not an obvious solution” (Moon 4)

- Reflective writing provides an opportunity for you to gain further insights from your work through deeper reflection on your experiences, and through further consideration of other perspectives from people and theory. Through reflection we can deepen the learning from work.

# Always remember!

- Audience
- Purpose
- Style

# How to identify your audience

- What do your readers want to learn?
- What do they hope to gain?
- Are your readers already biased for or against your ideas in some way?
- What, if anything, can you assume that your readers already know about your topic?
- What background information might they need to know to understand a current situation clearly?
- What facts, explanations, or examples will best present your ideas? How detailed should you be?

# Audience

Familiarity of the audience with your topic:

- If the audience knows less than the writer, you need to be *instructional*
- If the audience knows more than the writer, you need to display *familiarity*, expertise, and intelligence

# All readers

- want to think and learn (whether they realize it or not )
- want to see what you see



Compare the definitions of *alliteration*. What is the intended audience in each case?

## Alliteration

- the use of words that begin with the same sound near one another (as in *wild and woolly* or *a babbling brook*).
- the repetition of a speech sound in a sequence of nearby words. Usually the term is applied only to consonants, and only when the recurrent sound is made emphatic because it begins a word or a stressed syllable within a word < ...>

## Sources:

- <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>
- Abrams, Meyer Howard, and Geoffrey Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Wadsworth: Cengage Learning, 2009.

# Your purpose?

- to inform
- to evaluate
- to persuade
- to recommend
- to entertain
- to call readers to action
- to propose
- to change attitudes
- to provoke thought
- to analyze
- to express feelings
- to argue
- to summarize

# Practice

- Write two definitions of a term of your choice in your own field, one intended for graduate students in a totally unrelated field, another intended for your fellow students.

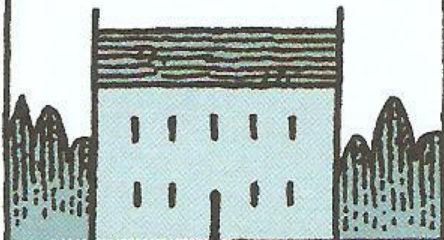
# Style: spot the difference!

There's a lot of arguing about the Spinnaker. Because it's so tall you can see it from all around, but does this mean it's a good thing for the economy etc? It's really late – it was meant to be ready for the Millennium (so much for the 'Millennium Tower', it's just been costing us money all that time too!) – and it's not going to employ as many people as lost their jobs in the dockyard over the years. Not nearly as many. And it'll take ages for them to get back the cost from people who go up it.

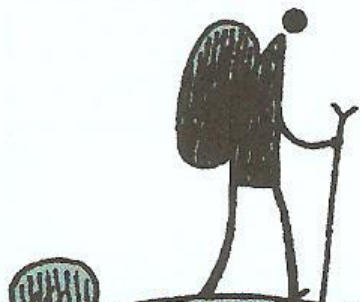
Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower is a controversial structure. At 170m (Colville, 2005, p.3), it dominates the city's harbourside. Whether it will boost the city's economy is perhaps questionable, however. The project, and thus its potential impact, has been delayed several times (Dyckhoff, 2005, p. 14). Thirty thousand Portsmouth jobs have been lost since the early 1980s (Merrick, 2005, p. 3); Gunwharf Quays, where the Tower is situated, employed only two thousand in 2001 (Morrison, 2001, p. 1). It may take twenty-five years for income from visitors to equal the cost of construction (Dyckhoff, 2005, p. 15).

## ON MY HOLIDAY

RENTED  
VILLA



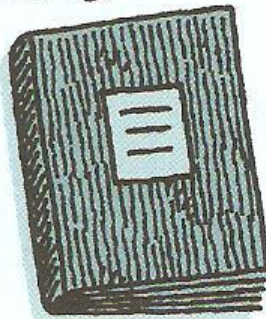
PASSING  
TOURIST



FRIENDLY  
NEIGHBOUR

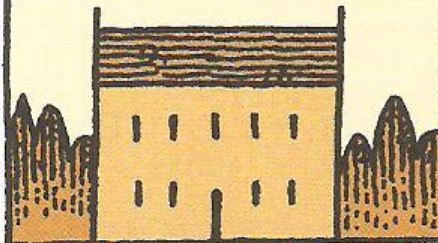


HOLIDAY  
READ



## IN THE NOVEL

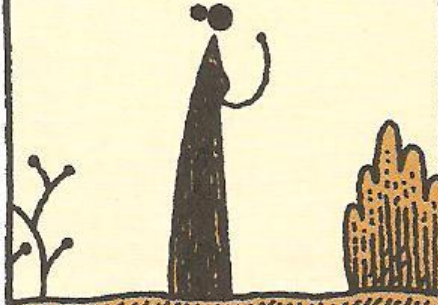
ISOLATED  
CHATEAU



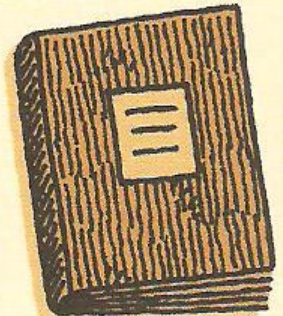
ESCAPED  
MURDERER



LUSTFUL  
COUNTESS



DARK  
SECRETS



# Works Cited

Moon, Jennifer A. *Reflection in Learning and Professional Development: Theory and Practice*. Routledge, 2013.

Rowling, Joanne K. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. London: Bloomsbury, 2000.