

EXAMPLE – REFLECTIONS

First reflection session:

In many of my courses we have discussed the role that media play in conveying information, and how many people learn about the current events from newspapers and TV news. I think this would be an interesting topic to research in my essay, and I'm also thinking of studying journalism in the future. After talking to my supervisor, I know that I need to focus on something more concrete. My plan is to choose a certain event in history, and then look how the media was involved.

Interim reflection:

I discovered that the American media was very heavily involved in the Vietnam War between 1955 and 1975. And this was the first time that the US media was not censored in the same ways as in the Second World War or the Korean War. I have already found multiple sources and have been writing down ideas in my research portfolio. I have also found some pictures which I can use in my essay to discuss how the media reported on the events with regards to the photos. I'm still trying to narrow down my topic though, because I haven't been able to formulate a proper research question.

Final reflection – viva voce

I narrowed down my research in the end to look at how the US media reporting on the Vietnam War was out of context and how this influenced the American public. I found lots of sources that discuss the issue, and it is very interesting to see how the media really took some events completely out of context and the American public was left with a wrong image of what really took place. I learned that it's important to be critical when reading the news, because there can be multiple sides to one story, so you cannot always trust that the news story is completely true.

I'm very happy that I was able to finish my essay, because it was a lot of hard work. I learned a lot about the topic, and also how to write an academic essay. I understand now that it is important to have clearly defined focus for the essay, because 4000 words is not so long in the end to cover a huge topic.