**Final Reflection Essay**

**Overview:** Your final paper is meant to help you reflect on your experience abroad and to share some insights with your classmates, and maybe with future FLP students. It will necessarily be selective, as you will choose among the many ideas this experience has stirred up.

The resulting essay should include **reminiscence**--that is, a story from your experience that sparked your insight about Irish culture in particular or human society in general. Include whatever details about the incident that will help engage the reader, but don’t take up too much of the piece with the story-telling part. It should also include **reflection** on the incident—the insight itself, as clearly as you can state it. Note: This is **not** the place to **evaluate** the class or the trip. There will be a separate (non-graded) opportunity to do that.

**Procedure:**

1. **Reflect:** Read over your journal entries and any other writing/photos you may have about the trip: emails home, Facebook or Instagram postings, notes on the performances, readings, excursions, and class discussions.
2. **Pick a theme:** Decide on one idea you had about the whole course experience that you haven’t yet written about in any other assignment. For example, maybe you noticed something unexpected in different discussions of Irish culture (maybe something about cultural or individual identity, art, language, politics, music, theater, immigration, religion, Irish attitudes about Americans, different interpretations of history, etc.). Maybe something said by one of our tour guides in Ireland echoed or contrasted with something you saw in a cathedral or heard from someone you met in a pub or read in one of the assignments. Anything unexpected is a good source of these insights.
3. **Draw connections:** Try to relate this insight to something we have discussed in class or on the road. One way to do this is to relate it to some passage in a reading that you highlighted as significant, or a quote from a film we saw. Something that surprised you is a good place to start.
4. **Consult/revise:** Feel free to submit a rough draft to me for commentary, but give me enough time to respond—ideally not on Aug. 7th! Please just paste it into an email.

**Details:**

* **Length/format**: Aim for 1000 words
* **Multi-modal** (optional): Feel free to include a visual, such as a photo you took.
* **Canvas**: As with all the final papers, this will need to be submitted to Canvas.
* **Due:** Aug 8th with portfolio
* **Points:** Worth 250 (out of 1000 for the semester)