Diana Truong Exit Self-Assessment

Describe for each goal

a) something that reflects what you have achieved well related to this goal, andb) something you have struggled with/ need more help on/ want to work further on.

I. "MY SYNTHESIS PRODUCT SHOWS THAT ... "

(adapted from the "Phases of research and engagement" in the Practicum course in the expectation that these are also relevant goals for students' work in moving towards the synthesis product)

A. I can convey who I want to influence/affect concerning what (Subject, Audience, Purpose).

-I can express my feelings to the audience, especially to my daughter, about my topic/subject and purpose; I want her to understand what to view in my world. For example, I want her to know about my culture's holidays and household customs by giving her more explanations and detail about my traditions.

B. I know what others have done before, either in the form of writing or action, that informs and connects with my project, and I know what others are doing now.

-I know many of my classmates helped me with my work by giving a lot of feedback; we still continue to discuss our syntheses through email and sometimes by phone as some are still working on it today.

C. I have teased out my vision, so as to expand my view of issues associated with the project, expose possible new directions, clarify direction/scope within the larger set of issues, and decide the most important direction.

-I stepped beyond my boundary (comfort zone) throughout the CCT program and by doing my synthesis. For example, I embarrassed myself doing presentations; I had a tough time doing interviews with Professor Peter Kiang and my mother; and I struggled through many issues when I discovered the history of my family's past. I will continue to search more about my background, history, and culture in the future.

D. I have identified the premises and propositions that my project depends on, and can state counterpropositions. I have taken stock of the thinking and research I need to do to counter those counterpropositions or to revise my own propositions.

-Counter-propositions were hard because I have to keep on revising and asking myself why and how things follow the way they are. But doing research by going to the library and websites and asking questions with co-workers, friends and Professors helped me to find answers to what I'm looking for.

E. I have clear objectives with respect to product, both written and practice, and process, including personal development as a reflective practitioner. I have arranged my work in a sequence (with realistic deadlines) to realize these objectives.

-I did put every effort into doing what ever it takes to finish and complete my synthesis work even though I work two jobs, am a single mother and many times I'm stuck with questions but with the help from Professor and classmates I finally accomplished my goal.

F. I have gained direct information, models, and experience not readily available from other sources.

-I have gained many experiences from doing my synthesis even though some issues were harder to do than I thought. For example one of the biggest struggles that I had doing the synthesis was interviewing my mother. My mother and I are not close and our worlds are so different. I was reluctant to do the interview in the beginning, but Professor Smith encouraged me to do so. In the end I did it and I'm glad that I listened to

Professor Smith but I remember tears and angers at the things that I discovered from my mother. Because of this work, my mother and I are more bonded than before and also I understand more about her life and generation, even though I still have a difficult time accepting some of these things today.

G. I have clarified the overall progression or argument underlying my research and the written reports.

-I have clarified the overall progression and argument underlying in my synthesis research and the written reports especially from the interview with my mother.

H. My writing and other products Grab the attention of the readers/audience, Orient them, move them along in Steps, so they appreciate the Position I've led them to.

-In my writing, I explained in detail step by step to lead the audience to where I want them to go. I divided my synthesis by chapters and also by subheadings. For example, first I explained about myself and where I was born and the background information about my parents and where they're from. I want the audience to know how I felt before as a teenager and now as a mother and as an adult about raising my daughter in a bi-cultural life.

I. I have facilitated new avenues of classroom, workplace, and public participation.

-I have new views of the classroom, workplace, and public participation from doing my synthesis. I see people as individuals and not as group members that are all alike. I have explained and discussed related issues from my project with my co-workers and have been open-minded to hear their opinions.

J. To feed into my future learning and other work, I have taken stock of what has been working well and what needs changing.

-I know I changed a lot since I did my synthesis. For example, my relationship with my mother is not like before. I understand her more. I watch my actions and check myself more often than before especially when it comes to daughter.

II. DEVELOPING AS A REFLECTIVE PRACTITIONER, INCLUDING TAKING INITIATIVE IN AND THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

1. I have integrated knowledge and perspectives from CCT and other courses into my own inquiry and engagement in social and/or educational change.

-I have gained knowledge and new perspectives from CCT and other courses such as the synthesis class and the humor class, which I really enjoyed.

2. I have also integrated into my own inquiry and engagement the processes, experiences, and struggles of previous courses.

-I struggled with many CCT courses especially the ones that required presentations and actions. I also struggled with interviewing people. I am planning to work on more interviewing with my mother down the road.

3. I have developed efficient ways to organize my time, research materials, computer access, bibliographies, etc.

-I was well organized in my search for materials, such as going to library to find books on my topic; I put in much time to complete my work.

4. I have experimented with new tools and experiences, even if not every one became part of my toolkit as a learner, teacher/facilitator of others, and reflective practitioner.

-I have experienced many new tools but not all have I taken in. For example something that I did agree with, I view it as an experienced and something learned from it.

5. I have paid attention to the emotional dimensions of undertaking my own project but have found ways to clear away distractions from other sources (present & past) and not get blocked, turning apparent obstacles into opportunities to move into unfamiliar or uncomfortable territory.

-I was very uncomfortable in many situations since I was in CCT but I was able to break though most of my discomforts. I had a hard time interviewing on my mother, but I'm glad in the end because now I understand her more.

6. I have developed peer and other horizontal relationships. I have sought support and advice from peers, and have given support and advice to them when asked for.

-I developed support and relationships with my Professors and classmates; I also became closer to my mother and more open with my brother and sisters.

7. I have taken the lead, not dragged my feet, in dialogue with my advisor and other readers. I didn't wait for them to tell me how to solve an expository problem, what must be read and covered in a literature review, or what was meant by some comment I didn't understand. I didn't put off giving my writing to my advisor and other readers or avoid talking to them because I thought that they didn't see things the same way as I do.

-When readers or someone does not understand my point of view in my synthesis, I explained myself in more detail so they can understand my view. I listened to other people's advice, but also gave input as well.

8. I have revised seriously, which involved responding to the comments of others. I came to see this not as bowing down to the views of others, but taking them in and working them into my own reflective inquiry until I could convey more powerfully to others what I'm about (which may have changed as a result of the reflective inquiry).

-I have revised so many, many times on my synthesis and some parts I changed my mind on certain issues.

9. I have inquired and negotiated about formal standards, but gone on to develop and internalize my own criteria for doing work—criteria other than jumping through hoops set by the professor so I get a good grade.

-When I picked my synthesis topic, it wasn't for a good grade from the beginning. It was for myself and my own learning as well as for my daughter and the new generations to learn about their background and history when they grow up.

10 I have approached the CCT synthesis course and the CCT program as works-in-progress, which means that, instead of harboring criticisms to submit after the fact, I have found opportunities to affirm what is working well and to suggest directions for further development.

-I find CCT synthesis and CCT program as works-in-progress for me to have an opportunity to learn more about my background and ways to teach my daughter who is born and raised in America to understand more about herself for her future. The synthesis project is a start for me to continue my research and do more from here. I'm hoping and wishing to produce my own family history book in the future.