

Personal Reflective Structure Checklist

Have I:

1. Written in the first person

For example: I hate Australia Day. Everything about it makes **me** want to vomit.

2. Possibly used a combination of past and present tense.

For example: Present (is, has, does, makes) and Past (was, have, did, made).

3. Used informal language

For example: I'm a pretty laid-back bloke, but I can't stand the annoying whingers who call up 3AW every single day to moan about their 'so-called problems'.

4. Contained descriptive passages to give the reader a sense of people and places.

For example: The sun-kissed Aussie surfer, whose bronzed and overtly muscular body stridently bursts through the turbulent water, makes my boogie-board seem inferior and my beer-gut more rotund.

5. Included personal reflection and comment

For example: I've never been a good swimmer. All my life I've feared water. The look of shock on my international comrades' faces when I refuse to enter the hotel pool (without at least some form of floatation device and a few lifeguards on standby) is humiliating.

"But you're Australian!" they cry, "You're meant to be able to swim!"

And so I begin to wonder, was there some kind of 'Australian' test I missed out on? Why does my tendency to drop like a rock in pooled water make me un-Australian?

6. Used correct paragraphing

This style of writing will have many paragraphs. You begin a new paragraph:

When you start on a **new topic**

When you skip to a **new time**

When you skip to a **new place**

When a **new person** begins to **speak**

When **action** serves as part of the **dialogue**

When you want to produce a **dramatic effect**