



SSE SEF Class of 2014 reflects on its experience

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Critical reflection is a key component in adult learning, and is the cornerstone of SSE Ontario's action learning methodology.

Critical Reflection is often missing in traditional classrooms which tend to focus more on memorization of information. But, without reflection, learning runs the risk of becoming an activity, versus a transformational experience.

In order to solidify student learning, students in SSE's fellowship program create what we call a "reflective artifact."

This is an opportunity for students to take a step back near the end of the program and think about what, why, and how they've learned. Creating a reflective artifact helps foster deep, and long-lasting learning, where students extract personalized meanings from their experiences at SSE. Because personalized meaning is unique to every individual, the reflective exercise takes very different forms.



(Pictured left: "The Goblet of Social Change" by Claire Dunn '14, and Pinwheels by Ana Lozano '14)

This year we received everything from beautiful narratives to slam poetry to hand-sewn books, repurposed trophies, and artwork. At graduation students wore

lapel pinwheels inspired by Ana Lozano's reflective artifact presentation, where she had each student make pinwheels curled around words representing their journey through the program.

Below, we share a **few poignant excerpts** from reflective artifacts that included a written narrative. Enjoy!

On Leadership



"I cannot lead others unless I can lead myself with honest heart, mind and soul and in tune with who I truly am." --Natalia Savone '14

On Ambiguity and Asking for Help

"I am growing to accept all the uncertainty in my life, learning to be ok with groundlessness in general and becoming open to what/who might come in, while appreciating what I bring to my forever work-in-progress process and personal evolution. I am also learning to reach out when I need help." --Kim Adlard '14, Founder of OneAccessSpace: A Digital Resource for People Affected by Cancer

(Pictured left, "The Journey" by Anna Kostecka '14)

On Unlearning and Finding Oneself

"I have not changed. I have shed the layers of defense, uncertainty, and fear to find what I truly was inside all along." --Lynda Watson '14

On SSE's Unusual Classroom Format

"I have done a lot of post-secondary education; two degrees and many residencies and other learning experiences. I can say unequivocally that this has been the best learning experience I've had. I feel personally transformed. It is hard to put one's finger on what made the difference. It's not just increased confidence or knowledge or having a better set of tools. It's like a stronger alignment between who you are and how you are in the world. I'm not sure what's in the secret sauce but there's definitely something special there." --Robert Labossiere '14

On Zentreprenurship

"What I realize now, at the end of this 6 month journey, is that I am an aspiring Social Zentreprenur... a person who recognizes (like Carl Frankel and Allen Bromberger state in their book "The Art of Social Enterprise"), that being a talented entrepreneur requires a balance of

skills; one that clears away false narratives that keep us from gaining access to our best and wisest self, and the other that brings that self to the world well and wisely." --Natalia Savone '14



On the Task of Entrepreneurs

“The most important thing I learned is that something you thought people need and want isn’t necessarily what they actually need or want, and the role of the entrepreneur is to be able to tell the difference. It’s a mysterious process, but I think now that the key is wanting success more than you want the thing you thought was so brilliant at the beginning....There’s a kind of humility required, a giving over to the process. This really surprised me, the deeper connection with who you are, with things like trust and self-awareness. It’s almost ridiculous to say at my age, but it feels like an important beginning.” -- Robert Labossiere '14

(Pictured left and above, "The Journey" by Najeeb Khan '14)