The overall question that you are answering in this paper is “SO WHAT?” So what that you did this internship? Whom does it affect? How might it be useful? How did your experience connect to your academic work? How did you grow intellectually and/or personally? Remember that since your internship was a highly individual experience, your paper will also be unique, addressing those specific topics and questions that concerned you. Also note that this is an important means by which your faculty evaluates your academic performance, so include a short description of what you actually did daily, and then demonstrate your analytical ability.

Be sure to thoroughly examine your journal for insights, connections, changes, small incidents that highlight larger issues, and common threads. Rely on your journal for a sense of perspective on the quarter; the more analytical of a journal you kept, the easier this paper should be to write.

Finally, be literate! PROOFREAD AND SPELLCHECK! This is crucial, because it is impossible to read a slovenly paper without judging it on appearance as well as content. In some cases, mistakes even prevent the content from being understood, and both your and your faculty person’s time has been wasted.

Some topics, which could be included:

- The original goals/expectations and how they were or were not met
- What was to be learned, and what actually was learned or not learned
- The final product, its purpose, and a self-evaluation of it
- How information was obtained
- What problems were/were not encountered with the agency, people you were in contact with, the final product
- Controversy or questions revealed by the research or the experience
- Biases of the agency, yourself, the university, the community
- Pros and cons of the points of view
- How the internship connects to your academic past and future
- How your academic training prepared you for your internship, if at all
- How the academic literature compares to the reality of your internship
- Whether your attitude, perspective, or ability changed, and how
- Whether your agency worked the way you thought it would, what was different, and how you would change it?
- Do you see a future for yourself in this area, and why or why not
- Strengths and weaknesses you discovered about yourself
- Questions still unresolved, things you would have done differently

Note: The questions change. They do not have immediate answers, they grow and mature, like a fine wine, or a winter artichoke flower, but there must be questions.
SAMPLE Outline of Analytical-Reflective Paper

I. Description of internship
   a. responsibilities
   b. skills learned
   c. project description
   d. problems encountered
   e. your expectations/goals: how and why they were or were not met

II. Analysis of internship in terms of two or more of the following:
   • agency organizational structure critique, including analysis of information channels, power structure
   • comparative analysis with similar project
   • critique of methodology/program design
   • analysis of the field (i.e.: planning, IPM) and how your project contributed or related
   • what you learned, changes you experienced
   • ethical considerations/issues

III. Relationship of internship or project to academic literature
   a. set your experiences in the field in the context of at least 2 articles
   b. and/or relate your work to a specific theory you have learned in the classroom

IV. How internship related to academic work
   a. academic preparation
      1. how prior academic experience related to field experience
      2. adequacy of academic preparation
   b. future plans
      1. for coursework
      2. for career

V. Conclusion

Still feeling unsure? Come look at sample analytical papers in the Internship Program Office. Talk with your faculty sponsor. Talk with the Internship Coordinator. Relax, and remember: it’s your paper, so write something that will be of importance to you.