

**Reflective Essay**

What I did:

The process I went through to write my paper on Mayan Astronomy started with an extensive research using <[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)> as my starting place. I searched many websites, and downloaded a myriad of pictures to refer to as I did further research. I visited <[www.slcc.edu](http://www.slcc.edu)> for the library databases and most of my resources came from the academic journal called "JSTOR."

After having compiled about one-hundred pages of information on the topic, I decided to go to the library and just sit for a couple of hours highlighting the text. I read and re-read my information to ensure that I fully understood the text, context, and texture of the material. After researching, I quickly composed an outline for my paper that closely followed the handout for the class and systematically answered the designated questions from the reference sheet.

Afterward, I used the outline to compose my paper paying close attention to the specific topics that each paragraph should discuss. I included three pictures and smartly added them as figures in my text. I then reviewed my paper for grammatical errors and again to ensure that it had good flow. After having written and reviewed my paper twice, I uploaded it to my e-portfolio found at: <[www.nicholaseportfolio.yolasite.com](http://www.nicholaseportfolio.yolasite.com)>

What I learned:

I found it quite interesting that the Maya didn't recognize the cardinal directions. I had always assumed that every culture held them as pretty much constant and as a universal standard. I had been told as a young boy that the steps of the Mayan temple in Chichén Itzá amounted to 365. Upon further research, I have come to find that that is not the case. The temple has four staircases which each have ninety-one stairs. That only makes Three-hundred sixty-four stairs. The Three-hundred sixty-fifth is the pedestal at the apex of the edifice itself.