Reflection statement (V-1. Performance Skill)

During my junior semester at Monmouth, I was cast as Algernon in the 2004 Monmouth College Theatre production of Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This was an excellent opportunity to take what I had learned in class and utilize it on the stage. This play was written during the restoration period, which we have talked a lot about in a number of my theatre courses at Monmouth. I also did extensive character development to prepare for this role. One character exercise I used was what theatre performers call the “magic if.” What this means is that I created a view of the world through my characters eyes. I developed a world outside of the dialogue of the script. This character development approach was very helpful in creating a solid character that the audience understood. In a number of my theatre courses taken at Monmouth we have also used a character developing approach titled *The Three I’s*: Investigation, Inference, and Imagination. First I read the script and investigated everything my character said. I also inferred everything said about my character to further receive an understanding of where my character was coming from. Finally, I used my imagination to develop my personal interpretation of the character. Using these approaches to grasp a hold of my character truly helped me deliver a successful performance. In this performance I feel I was successful in terms of working with the other performers on stage. I also feel that by developing my character from the inside out, I had the chance to perform my emotion and actions naturally. Instead of trying to discover how my character would feel or act in a given situation, I allowed it to happen naturally through the character I had developed. For this performance I was nominated for an Irene Ryan acting scholarship, which is a national theatre award given to excellence in theatre arts. I feel this is exemplary of how I used the knowledge I had learned in my theatre courses at Monmouth and successfully developed it into skillful work on stage.