Good reflections prompts can help engage students in authentic and meaningful conversations about their own learning. Here are example questions that UCSD instructors use to guide students’ self-reflections on various learning outcomes:

Example 1: Learning Outcome: metacognitive/reflective writing
Notes to instructors: Choose 3-5 of the questions below to ask students to respond to at each stage of the drafting process. (Having them answer these in class, by hand, when they turn in their writing can be a good way to provoke authentic thinking.) Rather than commenting directly on their papers, respond to the students’ answers to these questions, referencing specific points in their paper to support your points. This approach helps students develop as readers and editors of their own work. By ratifying or challenging their opinions about what is working (or not) in their writing, using evidence drawn from their writing, you enable students to improve not (just) a particular piece of writing, but also their ability to perform well on future writing tasks. Be sure to tie your notes to specifics in their work, and be sure to help them see what they are doing well, not just what they could improve.

1. What aspect of your draft do you want feedback on? (Be specific.)
2. What do you think is working well in your draft? (Be specific)
3. What paragraph do you think is the strongest? Why?
4. What paragraph do you think needs the most improvement? Why do you think that?
5. If you had another week to work on this draft, what would you spend that time on? Why?
6. What point in your essay do you feel needs more support? Why? What kind of information do you think would bolster it?
7. What is the most well-crafted sentence in your draft?
8. What transition do you think is most effective in your draft? Why?
9. What transition in your essay did you struggle with? Why?

Example 2: Learning Outcomes: ethics, civic engagement
1. Do you identify as a Computer Scientist? Is there another part of your life that you more readily identify with? Are there situations when you are more or less likely to think of yourself as a computer scientist?
2. Describe a recent newsworthy example of a company that is facing an ethical question or issue. (Choose a company from the sector in which you’re working.) What impacts do public ethical dilemmas have on how you act as a professional? How do they change how you see your role as a professional?
3. Read over your own and your group members' reflections from Week 3. In what ways has your internship impacted how you identify yourself? Specifically address questions raised by your group-mates following up on your post.