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5/9/22

Self-Assessment Essay:

Over the course of the semester, I have enhanced my writing skills in multiple separate ways. At first, I struggled with finding the right tone and format to adapt to each form of writing, but with each assignment, I could do better than the previous assignment. Starting off with a personal narrative written by and about ourselves, we develop our own voices and style of creative writing. Being presented with short passages/articles from various sources, I was able to analyze and reflect on diverse kinds of writing. This was a valuable lesson as I had to learn to think more critically than before. We learned about the backgrounds of different figures through their writings, such as the life of a refugee adapting to life in the U.S, and a woman that discovered she had a disorder that made her believe she had an illness, which fascinated me into wondering just how much they had experienced in their lives.

While I did not enjoy this class much in the beginning, it has grown to be one of my most enjoyed. This class was one of the options for required courses that we need to graduate, and it is an effective course to take to improve your thinking, writing, and note-taking skills. I have learned and achieved the Course Objectives of doing research and fieldwork. After observing my peers in the classroom, I got a feel for what field working was, and how to look critically at things. When conducting interviews both inside and outside the classrooms, it assisted in gaining responses to my work, learning the process of fieldwork, and preparing me on how to interview people in the future. Conducting my observation of a student resource website proved helpful in my position on student rights and representation at City College. My expectations going into this project were that the audience, being students, would have various opinions and perspectives on their college experience. I was able to get a good understanding of student life, as well as support the analysis in my writing.

One of my favorite assignments was the Classroom Observation and writing the following reflection. The reason for choosing this assignment was that I learned the most from it. Following the Fieldnotes and Observation checklist and using the proper note-taking format were most helpful in organizing the information obtained, as well as figuring out how to observe an environment properly. Reflecting on this assignment, I would spend more time practicing field research strategies such as interviewing, researching, and observing.

Some areas I have not progressed in are writing in the proper tense, and developing strategies for editing. An example of this would be in my letter of introduction where I struggled with paragraph breaks and making my writing flow properly. I learned from this assignment that I mostly write in a passive voice, and this is an area where I need to improve to bring more tone into my writing. Ways to improve on this would be training myself to write in a passive voice and starting a new paragraph when I am introducing a new topic. I also struggle with summarizing all my main points in essay writing and forming a strong concluding or ending statement. A goal to improve would be to make my writing clear enough for others to understand what I am trying to say. For example, in assignments such as the Peer Interview, it was difficult to describe in detail the sequence of events taking place, so my writing was reflected in general statements. In the future, I need to engage in the social and collaborative aspects of the writing process, like taking notes of minor details, and of the conversation being made.

In this course, while I did make some changes in the process of my writing, I didn’t effectively revise and edit my major essays. Whether it is because of the lack of usage in writing resources like the Writing Center or other sources, I have not progressed in this area since I didn’t spend enough time applying the practices such as integrating, paraphrasing, summarizing, and analyzing the components of my essay. I would spend more time reviewing each section of my writing. From the beginning of this course, my perception of what writing is has changed. I have since learned that writing does not follow a particular format, but rather is something you consistently must make changes to and shape it in the way that is best for you.