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ENG 101 Reflection Letter

Studying a language can be of great importance when it comes to better understanding its value in the world. Throughout this course that I have taken of English 101 taught by Professor Austin Fricke here at Central Washington University, I have taken away a few key outcomes that included understanding how to properly read sources during personal and academic research, writing with reason and meaning, and understanding the importance of thinking critically. Such things are important to the way that I understood how invaluable taking a language course can be to an individual. Despite that, I did not find one particular assignment that I did not like as much as the others.

As stated, two of the outcomes that I felt I met with this course was better understanding how to properly read sources during my personal and academic research, and writing with reason and meaning. This was true for almost all of the assignments, but I felt it was especially true with our Writing Processes assignment, which I also chose as one of the few assignments that I found to be extremely valuable to my understanding of the importance of reading properly. I found that this was true for this particular assignment because while gathering information and knowledge pertaining to our own personal writing processes and what we felt those were, we conducted a research discussion on writing processes through reading a chapter of the textbook “Involved: Writing for College, Writing for Yourself” by Charles Bazerman, in which Bazerman covered a case study on a student who learned from experience on taking time on how to write and take

“analytic notes”, and in the assignment, I came to the conclusion that “This article taught me about the importance of pre-writing and thinking about some of the processes of writing prior to writing up a draft.” I then utilized this information on my final Writing Processes assignment to write about my personal experience and what I felt my writing processes were. To me, this goes to show that I learned to understand how to properly read sources during both my personal and academic research, and I learned how to write with reason in the sense of understanding my writing processes.

The other major outcome that I felt I met after taking this course was understanding the importance of thinking critically. I found that this was particularly true when we completed our Rhetorical Analysis assignment where we went over the reasoning behind rhetoric use in our everyday world. In this assignment, I covered Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech and how and to what extent he utilized rhetoric to portray and convey his message to many. In my final paper for this assignment, I stated that “Researching about the importance of analyzing rhetorical text in this has taught me much about the reasons why things are said and or going on around us.” I believe that this supports my idea of understanding the importance of critical thinking through this analysis assignment of rhetoric usage about how and why certain things are said the way they are, primarily covering the analysis of MLK’s use of rhetorical devices such as imagery and parallelism to be profound and impactful to the many individuals who take their time to hear and understand the speech for what it is. All of this goes to show that of the many outcomes, understanding the importance of thinking critically was a major one I felt I met after taking this course.

Going back to what I said, studying a language is and can be of great importance when it comes to better understanding its value in the world. In this case, I felt that taking this course has

been invaluable to me and how I understand the use of language in our world. I feel that these key outcomes that I felt I met will serve as a foundation for my future and the future of my community as a whole when and if it comes to getting involved in civic activities. Only time will be able to tell just how much a person can utilize a language learned to bring value to not only themselves but the world.

Works Cited

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