

Chris Liu

Mark Baker

Writing 2 05

9 December 2018

Hi Mark:

This portfolio includes major works I completed during the Writing 2 journey with the help of you. The introduction, the letter to Mark, an essay about over-sprawl, a research paper about school district housing, and a few Instagram photos shot in the journey are included in the portfolio.

Writing 2 is the writing course which provided me with the most writing experience and techniques so far in my college career because of its difficulty and exciting challenges on the path. As a writer, I learned not only how to complete a research procedure and paper but also the process of critical thinking and grappling. More importantly, I dived deeper into the urban landscape topic, which I did not have much experience before. Now I realized that problems caused by sprawling, gentrification, racial segregation, and similar social problems related to the topic still exist in many countries in the world in different forms. The course taught me the way to look at these problems in a unique research perspective and gave a little taste of what real research is like.

When I was writing the first draft of the essay about sprawling in Nanchang, I did not have a clear understanding of how this essay should be like in terms of the structure and the content. After getting the feedback from you I changed the topic from the urban sprawl of

Nanchang to the negative effects of over-sprawl. In the revision, I rewrote most of the parts and gained an understanding of how to write an academic essay.

I spent a ton of time working on the research paper because it did require a lot of work, including researching the topic, looking for sources, writing the annotated bibliography, and writing the actual paper. Compared to the writing, I enjoyed the researching process more. In a programming project, we break a big problem into small parts and solve them one by one, and I can apply exactly the same technique in researching. The paper is about what school district housing is and why it caused problems. Knowing the school district housing for many years, I never had a chance to think deeper about it. This researching experience gave me some idea of how this type of problem can be solved.

For the Instagram assignment, I shot a few pictures when I am revising my work. I really like this assignment because in China few professors or teachers are willing to embrace the social media and involve it in the syllabus. Documenting my learning is my habit since I can look back and feel proud to say this is what I did to make a particular progress.

Overall, you and the whole class have taught me many things and together we had a great experience studying with fun. In the short term, the knowledge will guide me to continue the learning path and help me succeed in the rest of my student life; in the long term, the entire experience and those lessons you taught can be my lifetime spiritual wealth.

Thank you,

Chris Liu