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DGM – 4000

**What Did I learn?**

I often find these types of questions to be very taxing for me. Not because I feel like I haven’t learned anything nor that I feel like I can’t identify what I have learned. It is because it forces me to ask myself a slew of other questions. For instance, to ask myself what I learned I must also ask myself what I can still learn or what can I improve on. These are the true reasons why asking a question like this can be taxing. I can never stop asking more questions to satisfy an answer for the first one. Although, try as I might, I will attempt to answer the question provided in the prompt as best I can.

For starters, I learned that I don’t hate writing as much as I previously thought. For the larger part of my life, I have been forced to write nonsense papers on facts and figures that I don’t particularly care about. While doing this made me very proficient at writing it also made me hate the act of writing. Often, I wouldn’t get any criticism on my work because it mindlessly filled the requirements of whatever paper I was tasked to write. Doing this made me hate working on papers because it really didn’t matter what the result of the paper was. It wouldn’t change me nor challenge me to think in different ways. In many circumstances I found myself recounting things that had no bearing on how I felt. However, I felt like this class was different. When it comes to storytelling you are forced to connect with how you feel about your writing. It forces you to think about how your feelings will impact any one line or paragraph. I believe that most of the storytelling assignments that I have had really imparted this wisdom on me and I am happy for it. Although I have to say that the worst assignments were the ones where I had to write something critical and boring. Again, it doesn’t matter what I write or how I feel all that matters is its accuracy. I find that kind of thing to be revolting when it comes to communicating.

If I had to isolate another principle I leaned it would have to be how to relearn concepts effectively and efficiently. I hate to say it but at its core, there weren’t many direct principles that I haven’t had hashed at me in this course before. Many teachers and professors have forced me to delve into the structure of story and more informally the structure of information itself. However, that doesn’t mean that I haven’t learned about the core principles that have been provided in this class. In many ways, the way the class was held helped me more efficiently understand and relearn the principles of writing. I admired how there wasn’t some crazy over headed intangible concept that had to be learned or some rigid structure that had to be followed. It was a down to earth approach to learning that I could really grapple with. Instead of doing a precise in-depth analysis of writing or the structure of sentences we focused on the impact of the writing and what it means to write and how it can impart concepts on others. Doing this made me relearn the concepts presented in a very quick way. In all honesty, if the class wasn’t structured the way it was I would be hitting the absolute bare minimum to focus on my other classes. Although instead, I am in a position where I can say that I have probably spent too much time in this class putting my others off. I feel that if I apply this down to earth method of approaching all the things that I learn I might be more capable of learning at an accelerated pace.

In conclusion, to bring up the concept I introduced the paper with, I learned how much I don’t know about writing. I honestly believe that I am decent at writing. However, I know full well that there are many things that I don’t know about writing. For instance, I don’t know how to write in a way that would pace effectively for the reader to understand the gravity of a situation. When I imagine events in my mind they can often take 5 or more minutes to play out. But, When I write them out they often get overlooked or read in a very quick way. Similarly, the impact is not taken with the same effect that I would like. Being just one small example as to what I don’t know it still opens a field of things that make my mind buzz. (Which is why I must reframe from talking about this too much. 😊 ) Truly, I think this was one of the most precious things about this class that I have learned, and it has given me a much brighter prospect toward the act of not only writing but reading more often in my life.

I hope what I have said above is fair. Because, there are many more things that I can talk about when it comes to what I have learned that fall outside of the scope of this paper. Truthfully this class was great and really well done. I really admired all the work that you put in to improve not only yourself but your ability to teach. It made me very sad to see so few people in the class because I feel like there are so many people missing out on a wonderful experience. I feel like there are many things that can be learned form your class and I would encourage anyone to take the course.