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### Portfolio Reflection

This is my reflection prompt for the Intro to Composition 2 course, taught by Lecturer Brett Schwartz, at UCF. The central challenge of the course was to develop an overarching project over the course of a single semester. The goal of the project was to perform an in-depth analysis on the writing conventions of a group of my choosing. The secondary aim of the project was to gain a deeper comprehension of advanced composition topics, such as discourse communities, activity theory, intertextuality, and rhetorical situations. This was particularly enlightening to me, as the exposure to such topics provided me the tools needed to better dissect my own writing conventions.

My personal chosen group of analysis was Augmented Reality (AR) research communities. Since I was an active participant in an AR focused research group, ISUE at UCF, the decision to focus on this area felt only natural to me. My goal was to contrast my comprehension of popular genre conventions within a system that I was already familiar with; so as to provide me with a clear example of progress.

The topic of research that I performed had to do with several forms of genre analysis within AR discourse communities. The level of research I did varied from project to project, but for the most part relied heavily on my previous knowledge of such communities. For my third and fourth paper, I was required to perform primary and secondary research on an AR group. I chose to gather all primary information from ISUE due to its convenience. This mainly consisted of my gathering of personal interviews with high ranking members, communication genres, and published research papers in the AR field. Secondary research mainly consisted of scholarly articles about writing

conventions related to computer science genre choices, as well as articles found within my course textbook, related to genre theory and intertextuality.

From my research, I learned how to analyze a discourse community on a much deeper level than I was able to previously. From my Intro to Composition 1 course, I was able to identify what a discourse community was, as well as identify any standard genre conventions used by such communities. I was never fully able to construct novel ideas for how discourse communities can evolve over time, develop new goals, and alter genre conventions to suit an adaptive environment. The major academic, which I was exposed to for the first time in this current course, was Carolyn Miller. Her writings on genre theory aided in my understanding of how groups, such as AR research communities, use genres as a type of motive, as opposed to a specific form. This enabled me to understand that discourse communities do not only have genres, but use genres for specific reasons.

This research changed my conception of writing, and subsequently my skills as a writer, in several ways. Firstly, writing has become more of an algorithmic process for me; I can immediately begin constructing a general structure around an essay prompt which will end up flowing well and lends itself to a cohesive narrative. Before, I viewed writing as a meticulous process, from which I could not deviate in the slightest; this resulted in dips in my writing confidence, as I would continuously fail. This new mindset while writing has proven to increase my self adulation and hopefully my writing abilities. Secondly, I think of performing research as less of a chore and more of a method of improving and extending my argument. Periodically, I would hit a brick wall during my initial composition of a draft; this grew quite frustrating. To remedy this, I found that by revisiting previous research options, I could develop a new strategy for progressing my argument.