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English 20

9 April 2021

Self-Evaluation

Before I started college, my writing ability was a complete mess. I didn't really know how to write anything outside of a five-paragraph format and when I needed help, my teachers couldn't do an effective job at telling me what I did wrong. The college-level writing courses I took were English 5 and English 20. I learned how to break out of the five-paragraph style type of writing and learned how to write drafts without restricting myself with rubrics first. For school, I have done outlines, reflections, peer reviews, self-evaluations, written speech drafts, and have written generic essays. In terms of writing skills, I mainly just worked to develop certain good habits like getting my ideas down on paper first and then revising afterwards. I started working on making my writing more formal by avoiding past tense in favor of active tense, avoiding split infinitives, and enhancing the readability of my essays by getting rid of unnecessary adverbs. Outside of an academic setting, most of the writing I do comes from job applications or taking notes from Khan Academy (I most recently completed the sections on personal finance and AP Statistics).

In the academic essay that I am writing, I would give myself a score between 3 and 4. The reasons are as follows: my essay responds to the prompt in a thought-provoking manner, my thesis controls the direction of the essay, I provide evidence to support my claims, and I have made it clear why certain evidence was used. As far as improvement goes, I believe I have yet to fully synthesize and integrate my sources. The organization of my essay could be smoother, at

least when it comes to implementing transitional phrases. I also have yet to perfect some of my stylistic choices.

When it came to writing the essay, first off, I had to come up with some sort of idea to write about. I decided to write about the Pygmalion Effect because it was something I was interested in and it was something I could write about easily based on my own personal life experiences. In terms of revising, I had a bunch of grammar and stylistic errors that I had to fix. Luckily, I had help from a writing aid program that I used on Google Docs to help me figure them out and I believe my essay should be mostly fine now. When it came to research, I first decided to write about my experiences before looking for sources to use. That way, when it came to using my sources, I could more easily explain them and connect them to my examples.

In my second text, I would say it's between a 3-4 right now. I think the strengths of my second text are that I was more able to easily write for my audience. Because this is a professional packet, I was really able to use language that suited the field of interest. Another strength I had was that I already had some knowledge of the field I was writing about, so I was able to act professional in that sense. I think one of the issues that I had was that I didn't have too much practice writing cover letters and resumes, so my work can be described as a rough start with no refinement. Another issue may have been that I didn't really have any formal criteria to go off of, but I did my best, regardless.

When it came to writing for my professional packet, I had to first go through the planning stage, which involved research and preparing to draft. Naturally, I had to look for sample works from others who applied to similar fields and use those works as references. I also had to pay attention and understand what it was employers in my field were looking for. I then had to draft my resume, cover letter, thank you letter, and whatnot. Afterwards, I just had to get feedback on

my professional packet and make changes as needed. I did not really have a rubric to cater to, but I did have to write to accommodate for job descriptions, my potential employers in the future, and to match the values of business and organizations.

For this class, I would give myself an A. Part of the reason why is because up until this point, I have done every assignment on time. I have asked for suggestions and help when needed and I did a great job of keeping myself ahead of tasks. If anything, I learned to write for fields outside of academia in this course and to write more specifically towards my field of interest, which is nice and helpful to me. I also believe that I have made the strongest use of my experiences in this course, especially when it came to writing for some of the essays and I really enjoyed the process. I have been given many chances to go back and look at what I did and I feel like it has really helped me grow and evolve as a writer. If anything, I feel as if I had accomplished more and received better support than in my AP English classes in high school.