FPT Part B: Reflection

1. **Which of the course evaluations showcased your greatest strengths in speaking, listening, reading, media creation, and/or writing skills? -- address at least two of these strengths. What are you the most proud of, overall? Explain why, and identify specific course learnings in your response. Support your response with direct proof from your own work, and/or teacher feedback.**

Out of all of the tasks we have had in this course, I am most proud of my pitch project video. While creating this project, I learned about the many aspects of media creation. Before starting this project, I did not know how to edit videos or even record my screen. I learned how to use OBS and Da Vinci: Resolve to create my video. On the attached rubric, my teacher says that I had “considerable use of creative visual aids & effects, appropriate setting, and video production values ”. In the end, the extra effort to learn these new tools was worth it as I was able to turn my creative vision into a reality. I know that in the future, these skills will be very important because I have noticed an increased trend in video assignments. This project also showcases my strength in speaking. After I wrote the script, I practiced for a long time to make sure that I made the best voiceover possible. The rubric that my teacher provided says that I had “effective pacing, energy, voice use, tone, passion, articulation - thorough regard for diction, language conventions, and formal presentation language”. This shows my understanding of proper speaking traits including figuring out where to pause for dramatic effect and to use the cadence of my voice to highlight the important points in my video. Even though this was the most difficult assignment for me, I think that it was a good learning experience because I learned new skills, thought about the importance of modulating my voice, and created a product I am proud of.

1. **Explain which of the course evaluations challenged you the most. Identify specific skills and/or knowledge involved in executing this task that were needed, to be successful. Explain to what degree you have improved these skills, or filled in any “knowledge gaps”. What action(s) can you take to continue to expand yourself in this area going forward?**

One of the most challenging assignments for me was the annotated bibliography for the pitch project. In the beginning I was very confused about the process of creating an annotated bibliography and I spent a lot of time researching and looking through course materials to figure out the best way to approach the problem. I learned how to create a proper annotated bibliography and I am proud of the work that I produced. In the provided rubric, my teacher said that my “annotated assessments are considerably accurate, specific, and complete” and my “annotated reflections are considerably accurate, specific, and complete”. This shows that I was successful in learning how to create an annotated bibliography. Creating the annotated bibliography helped me to learn a lot about my chosen topic. In my rubric for the video assignment, my teacher said that I had “thorough research content & apt reference to sources” and “thorough issue knowledge in appeal & proposed solution”. This shows that the research I conducted for my annotated bibliography helped me to make a good video. I had to do considerably less research for my video assignment because I had the background knowledge that I collected from creating this annotated bibliography. Although it was a challenge, and a lot of work, this project helped me to learn what makes a source credible and valuable.

1. **Thinking about your writing process in course assignments, describe which strategies were most effective for you when producing a complex text; consider steps taken before, during, and after your writing. Which of these strategies will help you the most in your future studies?**

During this class, I learned many strategies that have helped me grow as a writer. My favourite new strategy for creating rough drafts is to use an organizer. Before starting this course. I never really used an organizer to write. I would just write down my thoughts as they came into my head. As a result, the flow of my writing suffered and did not have coherence. In the evaluation piece that we did at the start of the semester, my writing did not include transition words and the paragraphs did not flow well together. It seemed like I was jumping between ideas without relating them to the previous ones. For example I wrote “This essay will prove Arnold Schwarzenegger’s proficiency with using the 6+1 writing traits. Schwarzenegger has no shortage of vision.”. Now that I have completed the course, I recognise the fact that this essay did not use the writing traits effectively. This quote shows that I had all the right ideas to use in my essay, but did not put as much emphasis on flow. Because of this, I would not consider this essay to be my best work. Another of my new favourite strategies for creating good essays is to write down important ideas and cite all my sources as I am reading the text. This has really saved me a lot of time. In grade eleven english class, I used to try to keep all of my ideas about the text in my memory. This includes important scenes, thoughts I had at the time, and any notes about the author. Consequently, many of my best ideas never made it into my essays because I forgot them. I would also forget where I found my information, resulting in some unquoted information. This year I have tried my best to note down any and all ideas that I have when I am reading a text and citing all my sources. For example, in my essay titled “Comparisons between ‘Rising from Earth’ and ‘An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth’”, I made sure to cite all the sources I used to find the information that I wrote down. In addition to this, I also wrote down all the information that I found important while I was reading the two texts I was comparing. When reading through “An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth” for the first time, I wrote down many quotes such as this: “look down where we’re doing stupid, brutal things to each other and the inevitable patience of the world that houses us”. I highlighted this part in particular because I found the quote to be a profound commentary on the world. Using organizers and noting specific information that I find important has helped me expand my writing ability. After implementing these strategies I have noticed huge benefits to the flow and efficiency of my writing process.

1. **What have you learned about yourself throughout this Grade 12 English course, as a student, or in a broader sense? Do you feel better prepared for future post-secondary studies, employment, and/or additional Grade 12 classes? Comment with respect to relevant learning skills (responsibility, organization, self-regulation, independent work, collaboration, initiative), core learning strands (oral communication, reading & literature, writing, media studies), rubric areas (knowledge, thinking, communication, application), and/or connections to course themes & content.**

Over the course of this quadmester, I have learned a lot about myself. The most important thing that I have learned about myself is that I care a lot about social issues. While I was reading some of the course materials (such as Liling), I could not help but feel sad that I had not heard about the injustices committed against different groups of people. Through literature, I was able to experience and learn about experiences and lives vastly different than my own. Liling is about a girl with bound feet. This was done so that she would look more graceful or dainty. I was deeply saddened by the fact that I had never heard of this historical practice. Even though the story had a happy ending, I could not help but think about the other people with bound feet who were not as lucky. For example when the author says “*She thought she might grow wings, because swimming was a kind of flying*”, I felt sad that other people with bound feet did not get to experience the same freedom as her. I also felt helpless about the situation as I did not or could not provide any solutions to this problem. Because I have learned so much about social justice, I feel better equipped to join my community in abolishing harmful social norms and helping those in need. I feel like I want to get involved in social justice issues so that I could make a positive change in this world. Another, more academic, trait that I have recognized in myself is the ability to adapt. Even though I initially had a tough time doing English class online, I adapted to my new workflow quickly. For example, I did not know how to submit my diagnostic writing when I first joined the course and I had a lot of trouble with brightspace in general. I was able to figure these things out and have been quite successful in online schooling. Although I had experienced challenges in dealing with technology and the subject matter of the course, I really enjoyed reading the book that we were assigned and experiencing life through the eyes of Liling.