Noah Holt

Mrs. Johnson

Engl 3110

26 April 2023

How did I pass?

In the fall of 2022, I took a class called Culture and Health. During that class, the discussions were centered around the different cultures throughout the United States, from the black community, the Hispanic community, the white community, the elderly community. Each week of the class was focused on a different community. The study of those groups was focused on how living conditions and prejudices and belief systems affect the health of the members within each community. In that course, an ethnography paper that was also a book report of sorts was slowly built up as well. The goal of the paper being to apply the concepts and vocab learned in the class and apply them to the populace in the book and then relate them back to current affairs. For my paper I studied the book, *Playing the Enemy*, which was about Nelson Mandela and how during he used rugby, something his enemy, the white population of his country, loved with all their hearts, to unite all his people into one united country. This paper was designed to be a research style paper with the application of class concepts, learnings from our book/study, and additional research in the relating the class and the book that was chosen. Being a paper that was worked on for the entire semester, I would have thought to find less errors than were found. Being that I did not have the knowledge I have now, it is good to look back and reflect on improvements to apply for the future.

Grammatical Analysis

1. Pick area of 2-3 paragraphs (limited quotes) (Page 6
   1. Notice and point out:
      1. Adjectival StructuresA
      2. Adverbial Structures
      3. Nominal Structures
      4. Free modifiers / nonrestrictive elements
      5. Stylistic elements
   2. Note: don’t need all but notice frequency and how/why used
2. Prescriptive Analysis
   1. Find errors throughout the paper
   2. Any patterns in the errors?

Sentence structures seem to be varied and spread out to an interesting surprise. Though no simple sentences were found in the two paragraphs analyzed, or looking through the rest, very seldom used. One of the few I did find was near the beginning of the paper where I said, “…, the story is still of an Apartheid South Africa….” This sentence was still found surrounded by prepositional phrases on either side of it. Often instead, I found the independent clauses of my sentences following a dependent clause, or a prepositional phrase, or even other independent clauses. Then in other paragraphs I found that the independent clause leads the sentence followed by the supporting information. I thought it was interesting that whichever way I would begin a paragraph, I would typically continue with the same or similar sentence structures for every sentence within. This being a form of repetition I feel leads to the reader flowing more easily through the paragraph, the reader getting the layout first and then more of the same to follow.

Sadly, this means that some of the mistakes I made would be followed by more of the same mistake throughout an entire paragraph. In one of the paragraphs analyzed for this paper, of the three sentences within, two of them began with a prepositional phrase that held the subject of the following clauses. Thinking back, I was trying to decrease the number of sentences I needed to write to decrease the repetition of the subject or not lose the subject with different pronouns like “it” or “they” and leave my readers wondering who I was talking about. Looking at it now, who was I talking about? For these two sentences in particular, they would begin something like, “For white South Africa, …,” and then continue on with two “independent clauses” (quotes since not true ICs) that the reader needed to refer back to the beginning prepositional phrases to remind themselves of the subject. Skimming through the rest of the paper, there were several other spots in which I see myself having done this again and again.

1. Sentence Structures (different page of paper) (page 5)
   1. Count: Simple (0, 0%), complex (3, 37%), compound (3, 37%), compound-complex (2, 15%)
   2. Provide examples: “For white South Africa, …”
      1. First paragraph, every sentence started with a prep phrase (the first was an adverb clause but similar function)
   3. Comment on any discoveries (what do you use most?) Continued to place subject in introductory prep phrase.

Final Comments

What did you learn about your writing style?

Any effects this course had on writing style/reading?