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Reflection Paper

The day has finally come, I am ending my first semester of college and my first college writing class. After many writing assignments, journals, drafting, revising and reading. Writing one has been a good introduction class to college level writing and great transition from high school writing to a more higher level comprehensive writing. We have learned many new skills and broken many past habits that was ingrained into us from previous schooling. My audience for this paper that I will be writing for is my future writing ten professor. Throughout writing one I have achieved the five learning outcomes; process, rhetoric, collaboration, research ethics, and craft. I will explain in depth on how I have achieved each learning outcome, from the start of the semester to the end going through some key assignment depending on the learning outcome. I will use my assignments from writing one as support and evidence.

The first learning outcome that is process which in high school I would find the most challenging because I usually didn’t set aside enough time for me to have a multistage process of critical reading, and writing. I was having a hard to manage my time and when I actually got to working I would spend my time inefficiently often procrastinating. I knew that had to change my bad habits in college. With a fresh new start in a new school, my motivation was strong but that wouldn’t last. When I was assigned my first essay in my writing one class I began working on it right after class.

The essay was two parts, the first was annotating our college personal statements with the audience of our high school friends, and the second was analyzing our personal statements with the audience of our professor. This essay taught us about audience. Depending on my audience I would have to think about different tone, word choice and whether to be formal or not. When I turned in my first draft of essay one we did a peer review. We gave our essay to a group and get their essays. We would read them and give feedback on how their tone was. One feedback I got on part two of essay one was “[f]irst of all, you don't have a lot here, probably add a bit more about "who did you imagine would be reading these statements", ...Your smoothness and coherent isn’t the best tho. Read out loud the essay to yourself to see if your essay flows. Overall just add more.” and with this feedback I would correct my flaws improving my essay. This process was difficult but crucial for improving my essay and for my second and final draft my professor said, “This section has improved since the previous draft, which is great. The writing feels more on topic and clearer” but there is always room for improvement and my professor said on my final draft he felt like i was just answering a list of questions rather than “offering a cohesive discussion that develops a key point from paragraph to paragraph.” I took this criticism and improved my writing for future papers. The process of getting feedback and implementing it and rewriting it was the most challenging learning outcome but that has changed after doing this for another three essays. The process in my writing one class was first, read. Our professor would give us readings which consisted of passages, articles and such which would get our brain turning on a topic. For example if we were reading about ways of seeing and what counts as art, we would write an essay about a popular cultural artifact that does not particular define as art and write about how it offers a new perspective. The second part of the process for writing a paper was the first shitty draft. Throwing all your ideas into a page to just let them out onto the page letting everything out of the noggin. This process would help start the process of writing and the see a grims of what the paper will be. And lastly the final draft, taking all the feedback from peers from the rough draft and remaking or completely redoing the whole essay if needed. The learning outcome process was used in every paper I wrote and I know I can always improve on.

The second learning outcome that I have achieved is rhetoric which I have already talked about briefly, In essay one we had to use the appropriate tone depending on the audience. For essay one part one the audience was my highschool friends who were writing their personal statements being in a more informal tone. My tone changes depending if I am writing a paper compared to an email, and changes once again if im writing an email to my professor or to a friend, either writing in a formal or informal tone. For every essay we would right to a different audience becoming a better writer overall.

The third learning outcome that I have achieved is collaboration. Some essay we wrote would be a responds to another author as shown in essay two where we would respond with a different perspective of art. Another time we would have collaboration is peer reviewing to have fresh eyes on our paper and other people's opinions and when we presented our ad for essay three. Collaboration gave us feedback on our work improving our overall writing.

The fourth learning outcome that I have achieved is research ethics. In essay two I had to research my cultural artifact which in order to know how this work of art challenges dominant culture and gives a new perspective. In essay three we had to research the fears and desires of a certain age group. In essay four we used a database from the UC Merced library which had data that couldn’t be accessed from a search engine like Google and worked on a worksheet that would teach us how to properly implement quotes treating sources fairly and accurately.

The fifth and final learning outcome that I have achieved is craft. My craft was always changing depending on what I was writing and who my audience is. In essay one part one I was writing to a friend while in part two I was writing to my professor. With a different audience means different tone and formality similar to what I said about rhetoric. In essay two we would write about many different types of popular magazine which all had different audiences which is important to know how to craft your paper based on your audience. For example, in my paper I chose a smartwater ad in the magazine “Wired” which had a middle age audience. In the paper I said “[t]his is important, because at this age they could be aging and getting unhealthier. Forty-year-old are busy with work and family and are looking for ways to stay healthy not having the energy or time they used to have. Smartwater presents a shortcut to balance their lives and work.” which based this paper around the age group. I crafted this sentence so the reader knows who the intended audience is which is important to know in order to always connect every point i make back to the intended audience which I do here, “And on top of that forty-year-olds probably have the money to spend on expensive water and fulfilling their desire to be healthier.” another example where I had to craft my writing in a certain way is also seen in essay four when we write an academic essay which had many facts, and statics making sure to give the sources credit and implementing into the paper correctly.

This is how I have achieved every single learning outcome in writing one and I am still learning and improving in each learning outcome but that's where your writing ten class can help me learn even more. There is always room for growth and I hope this class would be that class.