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Ms. Kinlie

ENGL 101.S01

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My Journey Through Writing

**Reflection of the Class**

My time in English 101 with Ms. Kinlie has been amazing and taught me a lot. Initially, my writing wasn't great, and I knew I was going to struggle a ton because I never liked writing since high school. The part I was most worried about in writing was organizing my thoughts effectively so that readers could understand them intuitively. Thankfully, the class started with the basics, and each assignment helped me improve, from writing a single paragraph to major essays. What really stood out was learning to build a strong argument. I got the hang of writing a thesis statement, backing it up with facts, and making sure everything made sense and flowed really well. These skills have helped me a ton to share my ideas more coherently and with more confidence in my writing.

Getting feedback from classmates and the instructor made a huge difference in my writing. The feedback from others gave me new perspectives to scrutinize my work and modify it when needed. The instructor’s insights were super helpful; they made me see what I was doing well and where I could improve. More importantly, the instructor provided suggestions on what could make the writing more effective. As the days went by, I started to enjoy the class more and found ways to make my points more powerful. With all of that, sometimes the class was overwhelming, with a lot to do, especially the three major essays. I struggled a lot with them, particularly in terms of organizing ideas effectively and utilizing appropriate vocabulary within the essays, especially the last one where I had to write 8-9 pages, which was insane. But I believe it pushed me to grow. I eventually learned to express myself and explore new thoughts. Now, I write with excitement and I'm even more eager to talk about new ideas. This class showed me that writing is not just about rules but also about effectively sharing thoughts. I'm really proud of what I've achieved. This class was more than just a school requirement; it helped me discover more about myself in terms of writing. What I've learned here is going to help me in school and in the future. Throughout the semester, my relationship with writing transformed: it became a tool for communication, a means to articulate ideas, and a way to connect with others. I carry with me not only a portfolio of my work but also an invigorated passion for learning and an eagerness to tackle whatever comes next. This is not the end of my writing journey; it’s just the beginning!

**Research Essay**

Switching gears to the final paper I wrote, in my essay on the costs of college, my intended audience was fellow students, educators, and policymakers who are directly or indirectly affected by this issue of college being too expensive. I aimed to prove to them that the financial barriers to higher education are not only hindering individual aspirations but also have broader societal implications. I saw this as significant because it reflects a collective concern that impacts our society. The key evidence I used included statistical data on the rise in college costs and personal narratives, like Fahila's struggle to finance her nursing education and the financial situation of the Moridi family.

The feedback from my peers and instructor highlighted the strength of the personal stories in my essay, which brought the data to life. They pointed out that my essay could benefit from a clearer structure to enhance the argument's impact. My instructor suggested I refine some stuff for greater clarity and develop my arguments with more supporting evidence and make sure the transition flows naturally. To prioritize my revisions, I focused first on the foundational aspects of my essay clarifying the thesis statement and restructuring the argument for a logical flow. These changes made my final draft more coherent, and I believe they significantly improved the essay's persuasive power.

After engaging in this writing process and reflecting on my work, I would rate my confidence as an academic writer at a 3 confident. This means, the approach to writing, the constructive feedback, and the act of revision has all contributed to a better understanding of crafting an argument and the importance of clear communication in writing. This experience has helped me improve my ability to articulate ideas effectively and has boosted my confidence in my writing capabilities.