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Dr. Marchisotto

CAT 3

June 5, 2022

### Portfolio Reflection

Almost every lecture, Dr. Marchisotto would take time to go over at least one of the assigned readings from last class. We were tasked to discuss in small groups about what happened in the readings and what makes the readings of films/videos we watched significant from a learning standpoint. Not only was this intriguing, but each discussion would show why/how a certain reading or video was pertinent to our final project. One particular reading that was most helpful was “The Deep” by Rivers Solomon, especially the first few chapters of the novel. Initially, I thought that “The Deep” was just another story like in high school. However, the class opened my eyes to its message: “Forgetting was not the same as healing” (Solomon 28). The quote is basically explaining how forgetting about the past is not the same as recovering from it. You, in fact, should remember the past in order to move on, or move past it. This was an important concept for our final project. The two settings: the past and the present/future, are interrelated through this notion of attempting to remember and learn about the past. Said notion was what really tied our project together and such a discovery would not have been possible without reading “The Deep” and learning more about it in lecture.

I think my best piece of writing is my Literature Review. Even though I did not limit myself to only using sources discussed in the Literature Review, it provided a very solid foundation of background research for my part of the story. I felt I put in the most effort into this

writing piece this quarter into making it cohesive and engaging. Additionally, I have done other sorts of literature reviews for cognitive science classes, but the one for this class was designed to be structured differently, so it was also engaging for me right.

One big challenge I faced this quarter was concerning the *group* aspect of the *group* project. Without name dropping, one of our group members especially was just not carrying their weight for the project. Their literature review I am still not sure if it was completed or not, and they put in very little effort, if any at all into trying to understand and contribute to the storyline. It was a huge pain to try to deal with at first, but our TA, Jess, was paramount in resolving the issue. She introduced the idea of being graded individually so that the one member would not drag our grades down. This way, everyone would be graded based on their individual contributions to the story and project, which was way more fair.

One skill that I developed this quarter especially was utilizing the different types of point of view. Prior to the “Choose your Own Adventure” project, I was used to writing only in third person because I was taught that good writing should not use the first person point of view. However, as the quarter progressed, Dr. Marchisotto taught me and the rest of the class that nowadays, it is okay to use that first person point of view. It was hard to adjust at first, but I felt I got really good down the road. We used a lot of first person for the diary entry portion of our project, as well as for the transitions to the other timeline of our story. Combining that with our usage of third person narration is what made our project so good. Learning how to properly use the first person point of view really elevated our project, and I believe will and has elevated my writing as an individual. That being said, some writing skills I still need to work on are analysis and synthesizing. The literature review required a lot of synthesis, and while I think I did write a good literature review, synthesizing the ideas is something that I could still get better at.

Synthesis was a new concept for me, and it was just introduced to me last quarter in CAT 2. I definitely have improved in terms of synthesizing articles, but I still want and need to learn more about the concept in order to perfect it in my writing later down the road.

The writing process this quarter was actually pretty similar to that of the past. For example, for essays in the past, I would outline my ideas out and then add evidence and analysis accordingly. Although the project was not exactly an essay, the process was similar. We outlined our story, and then used the evidence from our literature reviews to support and structure the story. One thing that was different is that the “Choose your Own Adventure” story did not really require evidence analysis. Being that the process is similar to the process I have used in the past, my writing process really has not changed at all.