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Introduction to College Writing

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As a bilingual student learning English was difficult especially since Spanish was my first language. In grade school I remember being pulled aside to have to take various test and completing more work than other students. In elementary it was tests in which I would have to name different objects on flashcards. In middle school I would complete writing tests and various computer work. Finally, in my junior year, of high school I took a computer test which showed my understanding of English. I had to work twice as hard as other students in order to show that I comprehend the English language, all while still learning Spanish and other subjects. All the work and effort that I have put into my education has taught me to value the work I do. Overall, I believe I deserve a B in Introduction to College Writing because I learned how to format in APA style, how to use online sources more efficiently and steps to writing a good essay.

Formatting in APA style was difficult because I commonly use to format in MLA style. The first few weeks of class we did not format our papers. When we did learn to format our papers we did them based on the careers we are going into. As a medical lab technician I wrote my papers in APA style which is used more for academic writing. APA style uses first person point of view (I, We) and uses an active voice which disregards past tense like “was.” This style of writing also avoids bias such as disability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender. Instead of using gendered pronouns (she, he) use “they” or “their.” APA style replaces pronouns with nouns such as “participant(s), individual, and researcher(s).” The title page should include the title, author(s), and institution where the research was conducted. Pages should include a header with the title and the page number; the title page header should read “Running header: *Title*.” The second page should include questions, the number of participants, a brief statement about the data and keywords, and an abstract which summarizes the paper. My essays did not include these things due to the information being irrelevant to my paper. The main body should be detailed and include an introduction, method, results, and discussion. The other bodies should have detailed descriptions about the methods.

In class we also learned how to efficiently use our online sources. When searching for certain information it is important to look at one’s own library whether it is a school one or public one, those sources are much more credible. Due to so much online sources it is difficult to know which are credible; any sources that end in “.Edu, or .Org” are more credible. Another important aspect to credible sources is the time and publisher. Most of my papers, I searched for how credible the author(s) were and when it was last updated to make sure my information was correct and up to date. It is important to check when the source was last updated and how recent the information is. For example, cars are always changing, one would not look at an old model to see what can be fixed about a current model. When using a search engine, such as Google, individuals can use keywords and other functions to get better results. For example, using “~” will help find what you are looking for an anything like it. “-“in front of keywords help eliminate other searches like when searching for pie the number and not the food.

Lastly, I learned the steps to writing a good essay. It is important to give yourself time to come back and fix mistakes on your paper and also look at it with a fresh new aspect. The first step to writing a good paper is writing anything and everything that occurs to you about the topic; the first step is about getting you started. Once one has a rough idea about the topic you must use these ideas to create an outline and get all the ideas together. Next, I would fix any grammar mistakes, FANBOYS, and paraphrase or lengthen anything in the paper. Lengthen your paper with any new ideas you may have thought about. Lastly, format in the way you would like or need it to be and reread just in case you missed anything. I would read my essays to myself out loud or show it to peer to have them give you any constructive criticism.

Taking everything into consideration, I think I deserve a B in Introduction to College Writing because I learned how to format in APA style, how to use online sources more efficiently and steps to writing a good essay. It has been a very interesting class that has taught me how to better English and papers.