

Course Reflection

There are numerous aspects of this course I thoroughly enjoyed; it was interesting, and I found it enjoyable seeing a variety of invention projects from others. Though, I admit, I was a bit introverted regarding the topic of participating in feedback. Along with this, I found myself unable to attend class meetings due to a multitude of viruses as well as family emergencies, especially most recently having the issue of an infant in the NICU. I digress; regardless, within this difficult semester, this course was what I found to be a form of relief, where for a single hour there was a moment to think and consider the idea of assisting in others learning, having the ability to properly care and teach children and being able to become an intricate factor in their learning journey. That being said, perhaps what I was able to grow from were the lectures I able to attend, and, in particular, the invention projects.

Due to a family emergency, the incident I previously mentioned, I was unable to present my own invention project in the way I hoped, as it was last minute, but I enjoyed having the ability to witness such incredible forms of pedagogical works creatively, in which I truly am grateful as I learned from those greatly. I tend to have difficulty regarding voicing my opinion aloud, though I learned a variety of elements and had the feedback to give, I found myself struggling to do so. Upon this realization, it struck me suddenly, and I was able to reflect on how and why this has occurred. This allowed me to better understand and grasp the mindset of how I imagine many students feel, which is a key factor I attempted to integrate in my own invention project with the anonymous feedback. In particular, I enjoyed several invention projects from fellow classmates, including the 'fanfiction/fandom media' created by, I believe it was Jessie, though I am not sure exactly, as well as Kassandra, who I believe created the imaginative and engaging duck presentation. These allowed the reminder, which was, to me, to be creative regardless of how it may be perceived, to rid myself of that fear of judgment, just as I wish to instill in future students of mine. Each project was so incredibly innovative and informative, especially the presentation regarding English as a second language that I resonated deeply with, but I could not bring myself too vocally express.

This course has taught my many things that I am grateful for and upon reflecting, I wish I had participated more, but I learned from each lecture and discussion, along with every activity despite situations where I was unable to attend. Regarding the aforementioned issues with participation, I was confronted with my own mistakes, and it allowed me to look back on and be reminded of what it was like to be a fearful student who has issues participating. I believe it allowed me to maintain and view both perspectives as a future educator alongside the viewpoint of a student, which furthered the ideas of adjustments and aiding in involvement with such students. This was what allowed me to create the anonymous feedback that I integrated within my own invention project, though I wish I was able to present, that hopefully incorporated the idea of participation in the form of 'baby steps', to allow students to feel more comfortable with participating and still having a bit of peer review.

Overall, in its entirety, this course was one I appreciated and feel as though I have learned greatly from, and though I have regrets and am remorseful of the potential that was not unlocked, I am grateful I was able to take this particular course. At times I found myself drawing comparisons, wondering why I did something creatively when others had been more professional or were rather introspective in comparison to mine. That is when I came to the realization and reminder that "comparison is the thief of joy" and while many things I created that were enjoyable and creative had been altered, of my own volition, was done to fit into what I assumed would be deemed as professional or was simply meant to adjust to what the 'normal' seemed to be, all that was done was limiting myself by drowning that form of creative expression, which is exactly what I hoped to prevent in my viewpoint as an educator.

In this course reflection, there is still that level of uncertainty, the fearful nature that was instilled in me that one must tread lightly or entirely avoid creativity, when in fact that was the opposite of what was necessary to thrive and enjoy learning as a whole. I wondered if my website was too 'out there', whether or not my vocabulary was up to par, or perhaps my assignments were less than engaging and were even too uninteresting to read. You may wonder why I would write such things, and normally these types of thoughts would never be submitted, but it was purposefully done.

I have done so to serve as a reminder that these thoughts are running rampant in the minds of these young, impressionable students, who likely have also strayed from creative forms of self-expression, who have thrown incredible assignments they've created into the abyss of unlocked potential.

I am aware this may result in less points, a lower grade in this course, but regardless, this course has taught me and served as a reminder to self-reflect and reconsider what it is I wish to achieve if I am to pursue a career as an educator. If I am to continue, I wish to implement each aspect I have learned throughout this course. These elements are incredibly valuable, and I am sincerely grateful I was able to learn and grow from Composition Theory & Pedagogy.