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## English 1302

# Self-Assessment Essay

During this summer section, I sense overwhelmed for this English 1302 course, not only I am a non-native speaker, but also the intense schedule of this online class. Although I am exhausted with the heavy writing task, I learned most throughout this course compared to other classes I take before, and the same thing happened when I took English 1301. Through this semester, I improved my English writing in many aspects, especially four outcomes I can identify. Four outcomes include:

* Use key rhetorical concepts through analyzing and composing a variety of texts;
* Summarize, paraphrase, analyze, and synthesize information from a variety of sources in their writing;
* Evaluate the work of others, give useful feedback to others on their writing, and evaluate and incorporate feedback from others in their own writing;
* Effectively collaborate on the design and content of a successful technical engineering document. I will give examples to illustrate how they contributed to the growth of my writing throughout the course.

The first skill I improved from this course is that use key rhetorical concepts through analyzing and composing a variety of texts. In my Literature Review assignment, I give much evidence on how to make the main argument sounds more convincing by using Logos, which means to convince an audience by using logic or reason. I started each paragraph in my Literature Review by a reason to lead the consequence design, for instance, the first paragraph's first sentence was "Before constructing a mousetrap car, it is important to know how it works.", and the second paragraph started with "The weight of a mousetrap car is a crucial element of its design because more mass cause more inertia which will hold the car from still to move, so make the car lightweight could make it easier to accelerate.", those starting sentence give the audience the whole picture of what's coming next and also a reason lead to the mousetrap car which is important. Shorten the rhetorical distance is another rhetorical concept I always use in my assignments because it may effectively let the audience understand your argument or main idea, sometimes, this technique can create sympathy between the author and the audience. In my Literature Review, I find an interesting topic and put it into the tedious engineer document to shorten the distance with my audiences, I hope the record mousetrap car's design can let the audience feel interested and relay when they read an engineering article.

The second skill I developed was to summarize, paraphrase, analyze, and synthesize information from a variety of sources in their writing. Before I learn this concept, I used to summarize an article by using the first-person narration and put too many personal opinions. After I learned how to summary others work, I realize I should use the author instead of I, and quote what the author says. There is step by step to write a summary like solve a mathematical problem by using formula. In my Literature Review, I summarized other's work and explained how other's design of their mousetrap car. I put a sentence at the beginning of each paragraph to state the main idea of the author also give a brief introduction about the author. After the introduction, I use my own words to state the author's design and quote the author's words to explain the obscure concepts the author wants to express. This skill is very useful when engineers try to analyze other's work before doing his own, it can give audiences the main picture of the topic.

The third concept I learned from English 1302 was to Evaluate the work of others, give useful feedback to others on their writing, and evaluate and incorporate feedback from others in their writing. I posted every draft to the Blackboard since the very first assignment. This post and review process help the students to revise their work in different aspects. The Describe - Evaluate - Suggest video taught me how to effectively evaluate other's work and giving them feedback, this method correct my past feedback giving habit, and that's the first time I realized the impact of other's feedback. My feedback to others or other's to me is used to be less effective during my English 1301 course, but the situation changes once I use the Describe-Evaluate-Suggest model to do the same thing, and this is the first time my peer respond my feedback sincerely that my suggestion was very useful to him.

Last but not least, I improved a lot in Effectively collaborate on the design and content of a successful technical engineering document. In our Final Design Report, we split the task into several parts, and each member has their specific job to finish. We use Microsoft Team and GroupMe to discuss the project online and put our video on YouTube to demonstrate our mousetrap car, also we use Google Doc to share a draft to edit the file simultaneously. Those methods made our collaboration efficient and everyone in the group was happy. The way that we collaborate nowadays is much different from several decades before, the Internet and mobile device changed everything in our life.

Although I developed my writing skill from many aspects, evaluate the work of others; give useful feedback to others on their writing; and evaluate and incorporate feedback from others in their writing is what I need to improve in the future. The reason I pick this is that I don't qualify to evaluate other's work, I can understand what the writer said, but cannot to suggest what need to improve, especially in sentence structure or word choice. Based on my current English writing knowledge, I may give some advice on how to make the main argument sounds more convincing by using logos, ethos, or pathos. However, I don't feel confident about giving others feedback with their work hope maybe I can do better in the future.

The last part, I think this course helps me a lot, and I could apply to develop flexible strategies for reading, drafting, reviewing, collaborating, revising, rewriting, rereading, and editing in my future academy career or programming career. I use the draft, revise, and rewrite as a formula to gradually develop my article. No matter I write an academy report or a routine email during work, this method is an effective way to produce an article. Although other course goals are also important to writing rhetorical articles, the draft, revise, and rewrite is the fundamental of writing. Besides the writing skills which I have learned from the course, how to write an informal progress report and a formal one is also very important to me because that report effectively improves the efficiency between team members and other project relatives. As a member of a game development team, we always struggle with the progress, and it always delayed for some reason. After we start writing the progress report, it helped us to communicate better and know what's going on.