

Lixiao Yang

Professor Margene Petersen

ENGL 111

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Reflection Analysis

Dear Mom,

How are things going for you? I've been missing you. During my first semester at Drexel, I faced numerous hurdles and learned a lot. I know you are very interested in my studying and life at Drexel, and I would like to show you some of the knowledge I have received in the class ENGL 111 through self-reflection paired with some of the essays I have written in this semester. I hope this gives you some insight into my study life and, by the way, demonstrates that I am growing acclimated to it.

My first essay is based on a literary narrative that I authored in which I provided a developed narrative about an area of my literacy practice or experience. I didn't know how to choose my topic at first because there were so many options and requirements, but the professor instructed us to brainstorm three possible ideas and then chose the best one from them. I eventually decided to make cooking the major focus of my story, and I remembered the time you taught me how to make fried rice, which was the start of my cooking journey. In this essay, I described the story's specifics through dialogue and used the five senses of description taught in the course, which provided me a better knowledge of the detailing technique. I also used the repetition technique from the reading

material to emphasize the deliciousness of the fried rice and to give rhythm to the story: "Perhaps it was because I contributed to a part in this bowl of fried rice that I found it extra delicious. The delicious rice was deliciously covered with oil, accompanied by the aroma of delicious scrambled eggs and delicious small onions." ("Draft 1 Project 1") My professor and classmates pointed out in the professor and peer review of this essay that I required a more compelling hook, that some of the nuances of the description needed to be clarified, and that my final paragraph should ideally be related to the consequences for me afterwards. These helpful recommendations improved my final manuscript by making it more emotional and professional, allowing me to grow as an English writer.

My second essay was in the profile category, and after much thought, I opted for Lian as my subject. I created a set of interview questions based on the main points of her tale and conducted my primary research via an online video interview. I acquired many new facts about Lian's suffering from the interviews, and I received a whole new level of knowledge of her tale and image from the main research. So I created her profile in the third person, explaining her narrative of hardships and choices as objectively as possible. Her recollections of that incident were incredibly motivating to me: "Life is sometimes like a knife, forcing you to take every step and stab you immediately when you can't walk even for a minute. The alarm clock, breakfast, kids, work, exams, family, everything can come at you at the same time. But when you are determined to fight it, you will start thinking about how to dance on the tip of the knives." ("Final Draft Project 2") In the writing and revision process of this essay, I reviewed the details for character descriptions, using

primary and secondary sources and MLA format.

In addition, I did a lot of informal writing in this course, including responses to queries on the reading material as well as comments and summaries of my own writing. By re-examining my own work, I discovered several flaws in these informal essays that I had previously overlooked. For example, when reflecting on peer review, I realized the importance of this session and that new issues identified through different people's perspectives could help me make better improvements to the article from the reader's point of view: "I think that the peer review activity really helped me as a writer, it demonstrated my essay from a different perspective, and I am able to learn how other readers might react to my essay. It also helped me as a reader, by reading others' work, I gained some techniques that they use in their essay." ("Peer Review Feedback Reflect") Furthermore, as I indicated in my self-reflection, I can gain something useful from my own writings for my personal development, both academically and in life, "writing Project 2 taught me many skills in profile writing, such as how to arrange the sequence of questions in an interview, how to organize materials in writing, and how to credit a secondary source in my essay." ("Reflection Project 2") I have gained a lot of knowledge about the genre, methods, and styles of English writing, and I now appreciate the value of instructor and peer critique. I also came to the conclusion that I could still do a lot more as an English writer, especially in terms of logical rigor and linguistic organization. I will keep letting you in on my gains in the future! Thank you so much for your support, love you!

Best,

Lixiao

Works Cited

- Yang, Lixiao. "Draft 1 Project 1." English 111-008. Professor Margene L. Petersen. Department of English & Philosophy, Drexel University. 9 Oct. 2022.
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- Yang, Lixiao. "Final Draft Project 2." English 111-008. Professor Margene L. Petersen. Department of English & Philosophy, Drexel University. 28 Nov. 2022.
- Yang, Lixiao. "Reflection Project 2." English 111-008. Professor Margene L. Petersen. Department of English & Philosophy, Drexel University. 29 Nov. 2022.