Manoj Vasa

Courtney Osborn

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Writer Reflection 2

I’ve had some difficulties while writing for all of these assignments. There were some times when I had to step away because nothing I wrote even made sense. However, I’ve learned of some methods to help me express what I want to say more clearly when writing. Apart from my struggles with grammar or vocabulary, I’ve grasped some techniques like outlining to help me in formulating my ideas in a more organized manner. These techniques have gradually assisted me in becoming a better writer.

One of the struggles I’ve encountered a lot was my lack of vocabulary to express my thoughts and state my facts effectively and the other was my grammar errors. I usually find myself pausing every so often to find a word that best fits into my sentences. Increasing my vocabulary could help me in expressing my thoughts more clearly. Consequently, I ended up repeating words too often and used too many boring verbs that gave my essays a banal tone. One way to fix this problem might be to just read more to accumulate my range of vocabulary to give my essays a more interesting and expressive tone. One grammar error I’ve faced multiple times is my use of commas. I didn’t use them where I needed to and used them in unnecessary places. Along with just my vocabulary and grammar, paragraph structure seemed to be troubling me as well.

Often times, I found myself clumping too many ideas into one paragraph. Doing this resulted in my paragraphs providing too much information in an unorganized, incoherent manner. I couldn’t figure out how to structure my paragraphs so that my ideas flowed smoothly from one point to another. My struggles with this aspect lead me to lose the significance of each paragraph. Furthermore, I wasn’t entirely sure how to incorporate transitions into my paragraphs to introduce the next main idea. When I did use transitions, the transitions themselves felt abrupt and out of place. Consequently, this lead for an abrupt change of topic from one paragraph to the next. However, following other people’s examples has helped me overcoming this problem.

Writing these essays, reading other people’s essays, and getting feedback on my assignments has helped me to understand my mistakes thus far. Getting feedback and giving feedback has really helped in fixing the errors I was making in my assignments as well. Feedback from the other students and the professor have helped me distinguish where I needed to write more about a point or make a point clearer. After reading the comments of the graded assignments I was able to delete segments of my essay that weren’t important and rewrote parts that were too vague. All of these aspects have helped me in becoming a stronger writer.

One thing that has made me a stronger writer was when I made an outline before I began writing. This outline provided me with an idea of the structure of the essay before I blindly rush into the assignment. Outlining has helped me to minimize the amount of points I need to express in each paragraph and it helped to structure my sentences in an organized manner. Making a reverse outline for my film analysis essay was also very helpful. It helped in grouping some ideas together into paragraphs that were originally split into three different paragraphs. Some other things I can do to become a stronger writer is to study some grammar rules so I can avoid the errors that I keep making and understand that I’m writing for the audience. I need to speak for the audience rather than to just exclude them from my thoughts. This redefines what I thought was a writer from the beginning of the course.

The idea of a writer has changed for me through the course. I’ve come to understand that a writer writes to express their thoughts and ideas as clearly as possible. Some may write to express their emotions with their poems or personal narratives while others write to state facts and statistics to prove an argument with their research. Nonetheless, a writer writes to be understood and acknowledged for what they write by their audience or even themselves. My idea of a writer changed since I’ve taken the role of the audience to mind in the process of writing. The audience interprets, judges, and comments on what the writer writes. So, a writer creates something to please their audience with their own perspective on an issue. The writer writes for the audience to understand what the writer understands.

I’ve made many mistakes in my essays through the semester. These mistakes were found by others and explained to me so that I could better comprehend what I was doing wrong. After I comprehended my mistakes, I was able to restructure my sentences and my ideas to create a more clear statement. Through outlining I was able to better understand what I was writing so I didn’t halt my progress every two minutes. Becoming a stronger writer is a challenge I am still facing and hope to overcome soon.