

Alex Jacob

Prof. Mandell

COMM 142

July 11th, 2021

Persuasion

Dear Prof. Mandell,

Although this class is a simple introductory level course, there is one slight change that I would make that would allow this class to strive further. The change that I would make does not interfere with the actual contents of the course, instead with the format and timing of particular assignments. The difference that I would propose is about this specific assignment. This assignment is entirely related to understanding how to persuade someone via technical writing. However, the topic that we are given is slightly inappropriate to our current standing in the course. This assignment is given to us during the second week, where we do not have an adequate amount of experience with this class. The timing of this assignment could lead to improper work or content.

This is not the first time that this particular situation happened. In high school, I had a teacher ask us what we thought about the class and the improvements that we would make. Naturally, this confused a handful of students, given that a large portion of the students was in the 9th grade. We turned in our papers of minor improvements and opinions to the teacher, then we did this assignment again on the last week of classes, and we got to compare. To our surprise, most of our improvements from the start of the year were made. Most of us were astonished that the teacher considered our voices to improve the class before the class continued.

To further my understanding, I decided to interview two of my friends and ask about their opinions and solutions to this situation. My first friend is someone who is currently enrolled in this class, Nicholas Deary. He held similar views to my own; however, he also mentioned in his solution that on the last week, rather than just revise any previous discussion, we can strictly revise this week's discussion, where we have adequate experience and can give a more structured opinion. My second friend is from high school, and I explained the situation to him. He, not surprisingly, mentioned that it was strange for a professor to ask for a course improvement one week into said course. His solution was to move this assignment to the final discussion simply.

After hearing these opinions and answers, I decided to search for course improvements on the internet. Nearly every webpage that I read mentioned having adequate flexibility in the course and getting student feedback. The result of this assignment is direct feedback to the course outline; to make various improvements to the class by and for the students. However, agreeing with my two friends, the timing of this assignment is strange. To improve this, we can have another assignment at the end of the course or change the last assignment to answer this same question.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

~Alex Iacob ai9388@rit.edu