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July 30th, 2024

Portfolio Introduction: My Journey As a Writer

My Journey As a Writer

Throughout my time at Cal Poly, my journey as a writer has been transformative, with significant growth and a deeper understanding of effective communication. Upon entering college, my writing was primarily functional, focusing on conveying information accurately but often lacking depth. The rigorous coursework at Cal Poly, combined with my involvement in tutoring, pushed me to refine my writing skills continuously. Classes such as Robot Ethics and Electric and Electronic Circuits taught me to structure arguments logically, utilize evidence effectively, and adapt my writing style to different audiences.

One significant change in my writing has been learning to structure a paper for its target audience, particularly when writing technical reports. Initially, my writing was somewhat rigid, focusing more on fulfilling assignment requirements than engaging the reader. Over time, I learned to present information in a way that is both informative and compelling, ensuring my arguments are well-supported and clearly articulated.

The first paper, my philosophy essay, titled "Final Memo" showcases my ability to use ideas and principles to form a sound and coherent argument. In this essay, I tackled complex ethical dilemmas related to technological advancements, drawing on various philosophical

theories to support my stance. For instance, in discussing the ethical implications of artificial general intelligence, I critically analyzed different viewpoints, synthesizing them into a cohesive argument that highlighted both the potential benefits and risks of AGI regulation.

The second paper, an IEEE report titled “Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Technology and Circuits Applications” illustrates my growth in writing technical reports with a strict format while providing all pertinent information and presenting clear conclusions. This report required meticulous attention to detail and adherence to the IEEE style guide, ensuring every section met professional standards.

Writing these papers was not without challenges. Ensuring the clarity and coherence of complex technical information in my IEEE report required multiple drafts and feedback from peers and professors. This iterative process taught me the value of revision and the importance of clarity in communication. In my philosophy essay, forming a well-rounded argument that considered multiple perspectives required extensive reading and critical thinking, improving my analytical and writing skills.

As I prepare to embark on a career in computer engineering, the writing skills I have developed at Cal Poly will be invaluable. Clear and effective communication is essential in the professional world, whether it involves writing technical reports, creating project proposals, or collaborating with teams. Effective communication is vital in the tech industry, where collaboration with cross-functional teams is common. Writing clear documentation, crafting persuasive arguments for design choices, and providing detailed project updates will be part of my daily tasks. My experience in writing analytical and research-intensive papers has prepared me to handle these responsibilities confidently.

In conclusion, my writing journey at Cal Poly has broadened my academic bandwidth, driven by coursework, feedback, and practical experiences. The selected papers in my GWR portfolio illustrate this development, showcasing my ability to analyze complex topics and integrate research effectively. As I transition into my professional career and further my studies in computer engineering, the writing skills I have cultivated will serve as a strong foundation, enabling me to communicate effectively, think critically, and contribute meaningfully to my field. The lessons learned and growth achieved during my time at Cal Poly will undoubtedly shape my future success in the dynamic and ever-evolving field of computer engineering.