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Reflection Narrative

Monster study is an alluring topic which crosses into so many different disciplines. Monster studies can be a study of sociology, psychology, and motion picture as well. I really like this course because learning this topic provides me many good ideas to my major study, such as scriptwriting and film production. I always enjoy reading the story written by Alfred Hitchcock and Stephen King, they create different kinds of monsters. After going through our course content and writing our own essays, I realize the significance of monster studies and all these literature works are to use monsters to think about what it means to be human.

Monster is scary. Before I taking this class, I thought people felt frightened about monsters only because of their creep appearances. However, now I would redefine that a real monster is a creature with moral monstrosity and its behavior threat to social life and common good. By writing these four essays, I find that people is not frightened by what it looks like but what it has done. I wrote about moral monstrosity in my first essay via using the story of *Wolf Alice,* *Bisclavret*, and *The Mark of the Beast.* I brought up some innovative ideas that a human can transform into a monster and a monster can transform into a human. In my second essay, I lift up my idea in the first essay via comparing the Cohen’s *Monsters Culture* with the monster in film *American psycho.* Cohen concluded several characteristics of monsters and pointed out that the monstrous body as a representation for the cultural body. I found that American psycho fit these criteria - his monstrous body is pure culture and is born at a certain culture moment, he is derived from fear and the anxiety, his darkness reflects our own darkness side. When I was thinking about my essay or discussing with my classmates, we often considered some psychology facts. Therefore, I chose to discuss the psychology behind why we watch horror films. It was a very interesting topic that I was surprised when I finished my research. I talked about three main factors which affected people to watch horror films, the psychological reason of watching horror films is that being aware of the unrealism presentation on screen, people who watch horror films are motivated by curiosity and fascination to release their negative emotion. Then finally came to the last essay and I thought the last one was the most useful exercise and inspired me a lot. Due to my third essay, I found that the viewer who watch horror films has a very clear instinct to separate the fictional horror and the real life violent. However, children under 13 are the victim of inappropriate media exposure because they consider everything they see as real. Therefore, I create a commercial for their parents to alert them the harm of letting their children watch PG-13 horror films by themselves.

I like the connections between four essays, it makes the whole writing experience systematic and well organized. Moreover, each essay was well related to our reading content – the reading material gave me a hint for my writing, meanwhile, my writing was the reflection of studying these reading material. Therefore, it made me feel comfortable with writing these essays. I am proud of my third essay because I did a thoroughly research before I started writing the essay. Firstly, doing research makes me feel confident about what I was writing. Additionally, I was familiar with my topic so my thought was not stopped while I was organizing it. In a nutshell, I think my third essay is reliable, convincing and alluring too. Unfortunately, I did really poor in my second essay due to my bad writing habit, but I think I correct it after this lesson. Besides my bad writing habit, I didn’t fully understand the request of the second essay, therefore, when the other students thought it was the easiest one, I had the different opinion. I made a terrible mistake when I was writing my second essay and I realized it later that it was a serious problem. This is a valuable lesson and I would like to thank Professor Gramling for giving me a second chance to correct it. I think the lesson not only will teach me how to be a writer, but also benefit my further study and also my career too. I am grateful for the lesson and your help.

Moreover, I found that annotated bibliography and rhetorical analysis were very useful because it helped me solving my writing issues. I always had difficulties with the connection and logic when I was writing my essay, because I did not pay attention to the link between each paragraph; it makes my idea fragment and lack of continuity. After using annotated bibliography and rhetorical analysis, I made a progress on logic and my writing flow became more fluent. However, I still have a lot of problems on my writing and need more works in the future, such as punctuation, grammar issues and sentence structures. I will pay more attention for them and improve them in the following exercises. In the nutshell, I really enjoy the topic and discussion from our course and I will continue studying and writing about monsters.