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Analytical Reading and Writing

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11/21/2024

Paper 4

Semester Reflection

My name is Azariah Young, I am a freshman student at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. My current major is computer science and I am in the college of science and technology. For this paper I am here to talk about my English class and reflect on the three papers that I have written this semester. This semester has been quite difficult and I have learned a lot in this Analytical Reading and Writing class. Something that I had hoped to gain from this class was growth in my writing and more confidence in expressing myself within my papers. This paper is being written to describe my progress through the three papers that I have written this semester.

For paper one the assignment was to write a rhetorical analysis piece using one of the given articles read in class. The idea of this paper was to attract an audience that is well educated and explain it in a way that they've never heard or seen the article before. A rhetorical Analysis explains the purpose, audience, genre and context. For this paper I believe that it was the easiest one out of all three papers. I feel as though because we were given so much resources and guidance for this paper it made it easier. When I started writing the paper I had so many resources that I didn't exactly know where to start. When I finished the paper and we had to do peer reviews I was quite nervous. I'd imagined that it would be face to face reading each other's papers and I watch as their facial expressions change drastically as they descend from line to

line. But it was more anonymous, which put me more at ease. Reading the constructive criticism opened my eyes to new ideas on my paper. I think that one of my strengths for this paper was my use of the resources. I think that it really helped my sense of direction for this paper. One of my weaknesses

For paper 2 the assignment was to write more of a research based paper. We were to use a topic from unit 2 and expand on the audience's understanding of the topic chosen. For this paper I chose to write about the effects of surveillance on law enforcement and protection. My thought process while using this topic was more focused on the issues within the minority fields. Not many rich people or celebrities care for the civilians of the world and I wanted to note that it makes the world a world. When writing this piece I tried my best not to go too far into any specific topic. But I noticed from my feedback I was being too general. That is something that I will be working on when I revise my paper. I think that one of my strengths while writing this paper was the topic itself. I felt kind of proud about it because it could hit specific areas that I knew a lot about. One of my weaknesses was using too many quotes and too much factual evidence and not enough argument kind of blurs the opinion in the paper.

For paper 3 the assignment was to make a persuasive argument on a topic related to literacy. This paper was intended to be based more on my opinion and setting my argument and explain why I feel the way that I feel. This paper was overall the hardest, because it was less factual basing and more of what I think and believe. As I have stated before I tend to trial off when I get stuck. I ramble on topics that are irrelevant. For this paper I decided to write about social media and the effect it has on teenagers. I chose to oppose this topic and use it to explain the reasons that social media can cause permanent mental, emotional and even physical damage. I think that this was one of the worst papers out of all three that I had written. For one it was

rushed and I definitely think it needed more thought especially because it was more of an intimate paper. I definitely will be revising this paper the most before the final and taking my time as well. One of my strengths for this paper was the hook, I feel like using a question for a hook can always get the audience to think more on the topic before I get deeper into it. I think among many one of my weaknesses was my overall introduction, because I seem to be having an issue introducing the topic without getting into too much detail.

Judging by the results of all my papers I noticed that I always struggle to figure out how to begin each paper in an orderly fashion. I also tend to trail off in certain paragraphs just to extend the length of the paper. But may have been caused by a lack of attention to detail. I noticed something that helped was listening to brown noise. It was something new that I was trying for all of my studying. It's currently helping hyperfixate on the assignment at hand and clear my mind of other things swirling around in my head. I believe that I still have a long way to go but this is a step in the right direction. One of my favorite things about writing these papers was reading feedback as well as other people's papers. I think it helped me add more perspective on my papers and I hope to continue to excel on my writing and I look back on these papers and remember who I was versus who I will be in the future.