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English for Social Science

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Final Reflection

Before stepping foot in the classroom, I knew I would enjoy writing for the social sciences because of my interest in the topic. However, in regard to writing I knew I was a good writer because of my pass experience in my FIQWS class. During this class I got to know my strengths and weaknesses as a writer; I am good at creative writing and started writing as a hobby. I enjoy journaling down my life because it allows me to reflect back on any thoughts and feelings that stood out that day. In doing so, I get to know myself better and question certain aspects of my life that I can improve on. Throughout this course, we began every class with free-writes and I came to realize that at times I am not aware of my own thoughts. It surprises me that there are things that I believe but don’t acknowledge, to some extent my thoughts become real once I jot them down on paper.

Even though I like expressing myself, a weakness of mine is being a perfectionist; I try too hard to express what I want to say flawlessly. As a result, I get writer’s block because I get fixated in trying to state what I want in a perfect way. Which stops me from writing what is truly on my mind. Expressing my ideas is also a challenge I have had to face because I get stuck on how to verbalize my ideas just as it is on my mind. From this class I learned to overcome these challenges. Through the multiple assignments that were given, I learned that when I verbally express my thoughts out loud, I am getting it out of my head. This technique helps me because instead of overthinking my thoughts, I just express it. After I hear what I have said, I proceed to write it down. Another technique that has been helpful is just brainstorming. For example, as I write this paper, I jot down everything that is on my mind. The idea is to get my ideas out of my head. Once it is out of me, I start revising and enhancing it to a much better version of it.

I have improved in writing about myself, because in the letter of introduction paper, I remember I had trouble analyzing myself and writing about my strengths and weaknesses. I didn’t really know much about my good and bad habits as a writer. I just wrote papers because they were required, and I had to complete them. I didn’t give much thought on my writing process, however after I was done with the paper, I learned who I am as a writer and now I can apply my knowledge to my other writing assignments. This had to be my favorite paper because it was based on me. The paper that I despised the most was the research paper because of the number of articles and journals I had to read. As I said in the letter of introduction, I don’t like to read. I like obtaining knowledge and information; however, I don’t like the process of reading because it is time consuming. If I had the power to obtain knowledge without reading, I would be extremely grateful. Since I don’t like to read, I made sure to pick a topic and a subgroup that greatly interested me. It had to be a topic that involved psychology because that is a potential major choice of mine. I chose child development because of my little siblings and because I wanted to know more on the topic. The topic itself made the paper more enjoyable so I didn’t mine reading and gathering information to conduct my research. Starting the paper was challenging because it was a research paper and not a creative writing paper, I had trouble with organizing my paper and I felt like my information was scrambled all over the place.

The ethnography paper was overwhelming because of the amount of time and work I had to dedicate it on. Not only did I have to conduct interviews and attend an event, but I had to be very descriptive and detailed. I didn’t know how to describe my surrounds very specifically because I was at a loss of words. It was hard to come up with verbs that perfectly fit the item, place, or person I was describing. On the other hand, this assignment was enjoyable because I conducted the interviews with my friends. I had fun asking them questions and I knew they liked talking about themselves and their personal experiences. However, writing 10 pages was not fun, I had trouble transferring the information I received from the interview to paper. I had to select certain information down because the interview that was supposed to be 15-20 mins ended up being an hour conversation on our childhood, reflecting on how money did impact us in several ways. Also, it didn’t help that I kept on procrastinating on the paper, I had the information and the ideas of what to write about, but I was stuck, being overwhelm on the required pages, 10 pages was a lot. However, as I finally started to focus and concentrated, I ended up filling 6 pages and then my problem was to condense and select key answers and observations from my field site and interviews. Overall the class positively helped me grow as a student, it pushed me to get out of my comfort zone, having to interaction and work with people, participate more in class, and conducting interviews.