Dear Professor Leston,

Beginning the fall semester in the new major Professional and Technical Writing, I had no idea what English 1710-Language and Technology would entail. I have always had a love for reading books however all that we’ve read this semester I never thought I would read and enjoy. For instance, this course has not only made my imagination run wild but it made me critically think about issues that were going on in the world. Therefore, I think I have gradually grown as a critical thinker throughout my college experience through the readings that you have given to us and through the blog posts that we had to respond to in order to reflect upon the readings.

One term I can never forget from taking this course, is tactical media. I would describe tactical media as the art and practice that engages and critiques the dominant political and economic power. Rather than taking to the streets and staging uproarious protests, those who practice tactical media engage in an aesthetic politics of disruption, intervention, and education. One piece that stood out to me the most and that I thoroughly enjoyed, was Border Hacks: Electronic Civil Disobedience and the Politics of Immigration by Rita Raley. This piece made me realize how selfish America and it’s government really is; immigrants are literally forced out of the land they built themselves, how is that fair? It just goes to show the lack of ethical empathy we as human beings should have for one another. Money, power, and greed has predominantly clouded our judgement from realizing that we are all created equal. Being an American citizen myself, I've realized how little to nothing I have done to stand up to what's right and trying to make a difference as many others have. I've realized that for every person that is not taking action against political corruption is one more person that is part of the problem, myself included.

The documentary that we watched in the beginning of the semester, *The Corporation* was something that I was quite familiar with. It brought me back to the time when I took a college level course in psychology focusing on deviant behavior but watching the documentary again put me back in a hard place. It saddens me that the documentary is our reality today and it is increasingly becoming worse. It made me question, how much can be done to actually make a difference but it's better to take action than to do absolutely nothing at all. Now, I always like to take a step back and critically think about the things that are happening around me. I wouldn't call myself an activist however, if I believe in something I will make an effort to make it known and spread the word to others who share in my beliefs. The peeve that made me take a step back and analyze my surroundings was Alex Andreou’s Anti-Homeless spikes which was based on defensive architecture. I always thought the city was attempting to modernize the appearance of society's surroundings and served as art that people could appreciate. How wrong was I after reading the piece and learning that defensive architecture is a twisted ploy to get rid of poverty and equality within the population; just one of the many issues we face and need to come to grips with in order to make a change.

Through all the years of writing in school, I never considered myself am actual writer because I was given a task and in order for me to pass, it needed to be completed in which the instructor asked to be completely. It wasn't until I entered this major, that being called a writer would be something that would be attached to my name. The blog posts gave me a chance to speak about the pieces we read in the way I interpreted them. With taking your class, I've learned as a writer that what I right or produce in text is neither right or wrong but simply my opinion. Readers may agree or disagree and that's okay because when talking about social justice issues, there's a side to every story. As a writer, I've learned when it’s tone to be formal and when it’s appropriate to be informal. I think what I lack as a writer is my ability to appeal to my readers with rhetorical language; as in, influencing my audience with emotion, logic, and the notion of experience. Pathos, ethos, and logos can each be used throughout my writing in the future to convey a specific purpose and I failed to utilize this tactic in the course. I believe if all the rhetorical appeals are blended together, a great piece of writing can be the product of that. When writing I have learned to look at my work with more than one perspective because not one person will agree with every opinion I have. The best practice of writing I've learned is to write for those who know nothing that way everything that needs to be said and conveyed in writing is accomplished.

As a citizen, I've realized that the technology that's been afforded to me has not been used to the best of my ability because I lack creativity and motivation to make a difference. Hence, the creative detournement project was the project I dreaded the most and honestly didn't enjoy. My lack of creativity and my lack of technological knowledge did not produce my best pieces of work so I tried to make up for it in the writing aspect. However, it wound up not working in my favor but everything I've come to learn in this class was due to trial and error. You can't succeed in everything but you can try until you've nailed it. All in all, this semester in your course has been a phenomenal one. There are only a handful of professor who can do what you've done, and that's open my eyes and mind to seeing things more clearly and differently. Because of you I will no longer stay silent about the problems that we as a country face but I will let my voice be heard alongside others who agree with me as well. So thank you for putting in the time and effort into teaching me all that I've learned this semester. I hope you enjoyed having me in your class as much as I'd enjoyed having you as a professor.

Warm regards,

Folayemi Akinbolaji