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ENG1710

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Reflective Paper

Dear Professor Leston,

 This semester has been a semester full of significant change for me. I have discovered many new things about who I am as a writer, a student, a person, and a citizen. I have discovered my boundaries and surpassed them by far more than I would have ever expected in February. This change and discovery is in part due to the Introduction to Language and Technology course. Reflecting on the work, the readings, the blog posts, and many discussions has allowed to me come to a realization of how grateful I am to have taken the course. The work done within the course did not give me a sense of difficulty at the beginning. I think it was more so frustrating because the work was time consuming, I was forced to adapt to devoting all of my spare time to reading, writing, thinking, and annotating which meant that I would have to cut the time spent with outside with family and friends. After the first month in the class, I got used to the work of writing blog posts, reading, and commenting. Reflecting on the readings in order to write the assigned blog posts allowed me to acknowledge and embrace the opinions I had about the connections between the readings, technology, and our society. Going through this process repeatedly and realizing that other students had the same ideas and opinions as I did made me feel a sense of belonging and an increase of confidence in my writing. The comments about my writing made me feel like it was valued and made other people feel a significant amount of emotion. This feeling made me want to write more about my views and opinions in connection to the readings, it made me confident enough to share my opinions during discussions as well. Sharing my thoughts, views, and opinions was something new for me because I usually stay quiet and avoid sharing anything. Since, I enjoyed sharing my ideas in this course it helped me become more open to participation in some of my courses as well.
 Although the readings did take a large amount of my time, they were my favorite part of the course along with the films. I found the readings and films to be very interesting, I even began to share them. I shared pieces like Neil Postman’s “Technopoly,” and “The Medium is the message,” Nicholas Carr’s “Vital Pathways,” Herman Melville’s “Bartleby the Scrivener” and De Certeau’s “Walking in the City,” and *The Corporation* and *King Corn* films with my girlfriend so much that she asked me to stop talking about them for a while because she felt like she knew everything there was to know about corporations and their connection to technology, our brains, and even corn. She would also say that I sounded a bit obsessed with them but I felt selfish if I kept them to myself because there were so many great things being said about technology and our society, things that people needed to know. These readings and films have changed me tremendously because there just some things that really stick with you and change your perception of reality, society, and yourself. These things, this course really did that for me. After watching *The Corporation* and *King Corn* films, I went vegetarian for about a week and it wasn’t that difficult but everything that isn’t made with meat is beyond expensive. However, I do plan to become vegetarian in the near future, I cannot continue to give into the corporation and their businesses.

 As writer, I have made a great amount of progress in learning to be more confident about my opinions and thoughts, I’ve learned to take on a different way of thinking about writing and reading, I’ve learned that writing has many stages and I have not conquered all of them yet. I’ve learned to be patient with myself and my ideas. As a citizen, I’ve acquired a new perspective about the environment that surrounds me, I’ve become more aware of my privacy and my rights, I’ve become aware of the technology I use and the effects it may have on me. As a person, I have learned something so significant, something that will stay with me for a long time. I’ve learned that I have power as a person, I have the right to say no, to change my mind, to make the decisions that satisfy me. I have the right to be content with what I am doing and that I have control over my own self. At the beginning of the semester, I wasn’t confident in my writing, I wasn’t fond of speaking up, I wasn’t fond of talking to other people, I didn’t realize that I had power, but now I realize that I am all of things and even more. I have made some connections with people, I’ve written about things that matter to me, and I’m not afraid to share them. The experience that I have encountered in this course will stick with me and be the basis of all the things I do and for that I am beyond grateful.

 Therefore, thank you Professor Leston for putting your all into this course and into our work. I appreciate your encouragement, your perspective, your thoughts, and comments. Thank you for enlightening me with such interesting readings, films, and discussions. Thank you for allowing me to discover a different side of who I am as a person. Thank you for allowing me to discover that reflection is a beautiful thing that goes a very long way.

Best Regards,

Briana Roldan