Dear Professor Leston,

I have enjoyed my time in this course, and I enjoyed having you as a professor. I believe I have changed for the better all because of this class. I took time off from college, and coming back to school I was nervous, and I questioned whether I will be able to do well. This class has reassured me that if I’m consistent and do the work to the best of my abilities I will do just fine. I know this course has changed me as a student because I found myself viewing the news or things around me, and thinking about our class discussions. I would find myself questioning things or I would have the thought, Professor Leston would discuss this topic in class, and if he did what would I say. I was constantly thinking about issues that could be discussed. Normally once a class was over and I did the homework I wouldn’t think about the class until the next meeting, it was not the case for this class. I also noticed certain habits that I have, and I need to stop so I can be a better writer and overall student. Because there were only six students in the class, the discussions around the table helped me talk and share my thoughts. I’m a very quiet student, and I’m trying to break out of that and your class, and the others I had helped me in being more vocal.

I believe posting the blogs and getting feedback from you and my classmates helped my writing because I was more aware you weren’t going to be the only one reading my work, and when I write I shouldn’t just do it for my professor, I should write as if I’m writing to an audience. I feel like I still have much improvement when it comes to writing. Because of your comments on my papers, I know what I need to work on. Reading the works of my classmates were also a great motivator because I was able to see how they expressed themselves through their work, and it made me go over my work and made sure I did enough. For my issue paper, I was too caught up in showing how the women were getting exploited and Money that I drifted way off my topic. It wasn’t until I read your comments the idea just hit me on how I could have shown exploitation and the money issue, without going off topic which would have been the doctor privileges, and the renovation respectively. The thought just hit me when I was sitting there, and I was thinking why I didn’t think of this; what was I thinking.

I found all the readings we did this semester interesting. Some were harder than other, but I did not mind because I know it was a way to improve my reading skills. I know being able to comprehend such complex pieces means I’m improving as a reader. The hardest reading was Michel de Certeau’s “Walking in the city.” The readings I did enjoy were Langdon Winner’s “Do Artifacts Have politics?”, “The subversive imagination of anti-road protest and Reclaim the Streets” and everything by Neil Postman.

We had a lot of discussions about the problems of society from race, capitalism, and politics. What stood out for me was when you asked what are you doing in life besides to better yourself, but to help others around you? This I’m doing for others, and what I could not just for myself. This course helped me realize that though society can make you feel powerless at times, you do have the power to change something no matter how big or small. It is a matter of wanting to do something that could have an impact whether it’s through words, artwork, social media, or anything.

I enjoyed all the films we watched this semester because all of them revealed the truth about their subject. I really liked King Corn and the Black Panther films. The King Corn film was an eye-opener about the world of corn. It was amazing to see the evolution of the farmers, and it was disturbing to see the all the things that were happening behind the scenes. I remember coming home on what I believe was a Wednesday, and for lunch my mother cooked hamburgers, and I was just staring at the burger because that day the film revealed the cows only get fed corn which is not nutritious for them and makes them sick and in that moment I did not want to eat it. Eventually, I did eat the burger, but in that moment I realized how people can read or see something disturbing about food and it makes them want to stop eat that particular food and go vegan. The Black Panthers I enjoyed watching this film because I wanted to see it when it came on PBS, but I missed it. Of all the films we watched I feel like this film really intrigued everyone the most. Every time we watched it. They didn’t want you to stop the documentary.

The infographic, culture jams, and the art project were interesting projects. I enjoyed it when everything was flowing, and I was frustrated when I got struck. I found coming up with an idea was the most difficult part of this project. Creating the images I enjoyed and didn’t have a problem with. Once my idea was clear then I knew how I wanted to display which came easily to me.

Thank you for reassuring me that I am capable of reading, writing, and creating things I never thought I could before.

Best,

Kimberly Jones