To: Professor Leston

From: Tiana Beatty

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Subject: Reflection Essay

Starting this semester to me felt like any other because I was trying to finish my degree, as I have been at City Tech for almost ten years in conjunction with my high school, Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH). But this was the first time in my City Tech career that I had begun advancing in a major that I would want to have a career in or use the skills that I’ve learned in this major to apply to a career field.

I have taken this Introduction to Language & Technology class last semester, but my overall progress and grade for that class became difficult to obtain because of the struggles from the projects that the professors in the previous class were giving. Between outside forces and the project difficulties in that class, I had to take this class all over. At first, I was upset because the final essay grade was a passing grade and the professor still had given me a failing grade for the class. But when I started this course, I noticed that there were lots of differences and approaches and then I concluded that this course wouldn’t be as difficult as it was last semester when I was being taught by about two professors and three to four teacher’s assistants. There was more simplistic teaching approaches compared to the previous semester.

At the beginning of the semester, I suspected that there would be a lot of readings and was writing intensive, but I guess wasn’t prepared for how writing intensive it actually was. Each reading that was assigned every week was about twenty pages and as someone who barely read; I had to brush up on my reading skills.

With balancing college and work, I had to try and find time of doing schoolwork, working, and maintaining a social life with friends and family. This was one of the challenges, I faced in this class during the Fall 2022 semester and semesters before. Besides the readings, there was the blog posts that were reflections on the readings that were assigned weekly. I didn’t struggle with the blog posts as much, but more so the readings. It meant that I had to read as much as I could in order to write and reflect about what I read. I didn’t mind the writing as I am a lover or writing; but targeted to the readings specifically.

But as the semester progressed further, I found that the readings weren’t as long anymore or at least reading them anyway. I concluded that it was my laziness and being motivated in wanting to do any work became a problem and struggle. But with the continuation of reading on a weekly basis, I found myself being able to read faster than my normal pace. Being allowed to read more sped up my reading pace and also increased my interest into wanting to read regular books again. Because of this, I have created and accessed my Kindle Amazon account and have binged read five books in less than two weeks. This was a tactic I used for the rest of the semester to balance out school and personal.

Once I was done reading and note-taking on the weekly readings, I was able to shift my focus on the books I actually found interesting and centered myself by reading those This allowed me to bring myself out of the college student mindset and into my relaxation headspace where my imagination would roam creating a calm and leveled out zone. I wish I would’ve found this route sooner because then I wouldn’t have fell behind in previous classes when it came to readings and reflections that were due. But like I mentioned earlier somehow, I would always make it to the finish line in the end to receive a grade that was considered passing.

So far staying motivated throughout this semester has been my number one constant through this semester and the previous ones. But I always end up pulling through, but this semester and the ones coming after are especially important to me. The reason for this is because the next few classes that I have to take are going to contribute to my major classes which will eventually lead up into my graduation.

So, I know that this semester was the start of my one step closer to graduating from the Professional & Technical Writing program. I will have to maintain at least a B average in all my classes taken from this semester and the upcoming ones as I am trying to achieve a 3.0 GPA. I know this will take time and loads of effort on my part, but I know that I can’t afford any more mistakes on my part, not if I can help it anyways.

Overall, this semester left a good impression on me as though the stress levels of balance remained normal, I found myself being more expressive in the classroom with my thoughts and ideas. Though I don’t speak much, I do listen a lot and there is a lot of passion behind becoming a technical communicator and being a part of the PTW program makes me feel like I have found a community where I’m accepted, and I am believed to do great things now and in the near future when I am accomplishing and pursuing my career.