TO: Professor Lestón

FROM: Naila Butt

DATE: 19 December 2022

SUBJECT: Final Reflection

Dear Professor,

Introduction to Language and Technology was a class that I found to be thought-provoking and fascinating. It provided me with a deep understanding of the complexities of language and technology and how they relate to our present-day society. This course has changed my thoughts and shaped how I perceive the world. It helped me understand the power of different language and technology mediums and the overall role technology plays in our daily environments. One of the most interesting aspects of this class was the assignments. I truly enjoyed working on the projects; even if they were challenging at times, it was worth investing time and energy into as they had impacted my growth and development as an individual.

In my experience, the assigned readings were, at times, challenging and pushed me out of my comfort zone. I would reread sentences repeatedly, trying to make sense of it all. However, the combination of blog posts and in-class discussions allowed me to engage with the material on a deeper level collectively with you and my peers. The blog posts were thought-provoking, and often I spent way more time than I intended on them. However, I genuinely feel like they were a great tool to help me organize my thoughts and improve my writing and critical thinking skills.

I particularly enjoyed the reading section on orality. Trask, Rath, and Gee discuss orality, the form of communication and language often associated with the "primitive." I was intrigued by how orality has played an immense role in spreading knowledge and cultural traditions throughout history, also how colonization and corruption have skewed the orality apparatus. It was eye-opening to understand how many cultures and societies have relied on oral traditions to preserve and pass down their history, values, and practices. I came to learn how complex and vital it is to respect the importance of oral traditions.

One of my favorite projects in this class was the exploratory project. I was happy to work with a different medium to organize my thoughts and work. I worked with WordPress to make a blog-style website to display my work and gained knowledge on the rhetorical function of my chosen technology topics while improving my web development skills. Ultimately, this project put into perspective how powerful technology is as a tool in our society. It can shape our thoughts, feelings, and actions as we rely on technology in our daily lives.

Postman's "Five Things We Need to Know About Technological Change" benefited my work and studies. His ideas allowed me to connect the dots between technology and its rhetorical function. They have entirely changed my perspectives and thought processes on technology. When putting these ideas together in my issue presentation, I was really able to venture off and explore how society is gravitating towards a lack of human interaction with the metaverse and digital world. Overall, examining technology's rhetorical function allowed me to understand the intended and unintended consequences that they hold and how it shapes the world around me.

I also enjoyed working on the detournement project because it allowed me to experiment with different forms of media. This project didn't feel like work, as I was able to work on issues that I believed needed to be brought to others' attention. My personal favorite was the detournement about the ongoing protests for Mahsa Amini. It was an issue I had been following, and the project was an opportunity to express issues that I am passionate about. In this case, the ongoing struggle women face throughout history and how the fight for women's rights has never ended.

I appreciated the structure of this class because it allowed me to use different mediums to convey my thoughts and ideas. I loved that we were encouraged to be creative with our work and also that our class had established a safe space where we all could support each other and grow together. Thank you, Professor Lestón, for your dedication and inspiring me to produce quality and meaningful work throughout the course. It was a truly inspiring course that has impacted me and will continue to shape me as an individual going forward.

Best regards,