

Miriam Hahn
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Prof. Cipriani
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My Final Reflection

At the beginning of this school term, I was almost sure I would be failing English class. I did not know how to write a proper sentence, correctly cite something, or have the desire to read anything. In the past as a reader, I was not able to understand the words I was reading even though I was the one reading. I learned in class when reading an author's writing, I should read the words and think about what the author meant by writing it. Applying this helped me learn how to understand the points the authors are trying to get across in their writing. Here is an example where I wrote I was applying this lesson to my reading. This example is from a double-entry journal I wrote on *Mother Tongue* by Amy Tan. "While reading I was trying to practice RLW. Reading this sentence made me think the author wanted me to get a more of an understanding of the family's background and to feel more involved in the story."

I learned about myself as a writer that I add too many details when trying to finish my writing. Doing this, I tend to add so many details, I get carried away and lose the original point of my writing. Losing the point of my writing can make it difficult for my audience to understand. Here is an example of too many details I wrote that made my writing seem all over. "Another spring day, in this archaic all girl's private high school. Walking in an hour late, at 9:40 am, I see I relievedly missed prayers. Around 500 girls, burst out three fiberglass entry doors making their way up the two giant staircases on both the right and left sides of the lobby. As I was about to walk up the stairs, I was interrupted by my grade's principal. She asked formally in her English accent to button up my white uniform blouse to my neck bone and please tie my hair back in a ponytail. I slide off my wrist, a blue-colored pony, and began to tie my hair up as my principal proceeded to walk away in the belief I will button my shirt as well. There are about 29-35 girls per class, and we are scheduled for four religious classes and four English classes a day. As the first-class begins, my patience thins, I try to understand what the teacher is saying." This quote is a perfect example of where I am trying to add so much information that I am not sure what the point was. This writing was for my educational narrative to explain what events in life shaped my definition of education.

Another thing I learned about myself as a writer is I enjoy writing more about something I find interesting. I found when I'm interested, I tend to add more details and do more research on the subject. An example of writing I did on something I was interested in was my annotated bibliography. It was about the history of the extraterrestrial alien study. The class assignment was to write four sources about any subject of choice. I chose extraterrestrial aliens. I found so much fascinating information to share that I wrote five sources. Here is the cite of one of the sources I provided in the annotated bibliography.

“Daley, Jason (October 2, 2018) “In the Search of Aliens, We’ve Only Analyzed a Small Pool in the Cosmic Ocean” Smithsonian Magazine. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/search-aliens-weve-only-examined-cosmic-hot-tub-180970447/>”

I also learned about myself as a writer is I get passionate in my writing when writing something I strongly believe in. An example is when I was in a double-entry journal, and I added a response to a quote I chose. My response was the following. “I feel it is very important to educate all children on the history of all races and regions. It is essential to understand each other and will help bring more peace than hatred and distance between everybody. A perfect example of why we need to educate ourselves is, in the article, when James Baldwin witnessed the Americans making fun of Europeans in Europe because they didn’t understand them.”

What I learned as a writer will help me out for a lifetime. At the moment, I work in an office, and in the past, I would send out emails that were short and simple. In other words, unprofessional. Now, I write long details and grammar correct emails. The information I learned about citing can help me apply it to my writing. By doing this, my readers can go to the source that the information came from. Citing will also prevent me from plagiarizing. I also found learning how to write an annotated bibliography was important information to know. Thanks to learning how to write one this semester, I was able to apply it to my other classes, which helped me a lot in my grades. One last comment I would like to say is about the confidence I was given this semester to continue writing through college and throughout life. Throughout this semester, my husband proofread all my assignments before uploading them. In the beginning, he would say he was not sure what was the point of the writing or how my grammar was too low or incorrect. Now, my husband says my writing has improved tremendously, and he often comments during conversations on how my vocabulary has improved very much. The other day my mother also commented on my vocabulary improvement.

My conclusion is this semester as a writer has been a great experience and a growing one. I will use everything I learned for my future classes, work, and life. I am most appreciative that I

will now be able to write full professional work emails. I want to thank my professor for being patient with me, and no matter how many times, always explaining the assignments so I can do better. The support I received helped me become the writer I am.