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Final Reflection

This semester I have written various works and completed various Toolwire games in an effort to improve my writing. This semester in English 1101 I have completed three major projects each that have allowed me to explore a new form of writing. Through the Toolwire games, I have learned and built on my writing skill while playing interactive games to learn about sentence structure, thesis formation, paragraph structure and, various other topics that I can apply to my writing. Over the course of the semester, I believe that I have grown tremendously as a writer in a short period of time.

To begin, I have seen growth in myself as a reader. I read a lot of my peer's work this semester in order to provide them with useful feedback or to understand their ideas and feelings about a reading that was assigned for that week. This semester has allowed me to become a more active reader. While reading I actively track my thoughts taking mental notes about the phrases or words that stick out to me, confuse me, or remind me of the past. I first began actively writing down my thoughts when I had to complete DEJ's, the more DEJ's I completed the more I unconsciously wrote down my thoughts and paid more attention to the meaning behind the words. My time in this class has also caused me to pay attention to grammar, punctuation and, word choice in others' writing. Before taking this class I did not pay close attention to the author's word choice or to their use of punctuations. I used to only read for information I did not place any values on the words used to convey the message. As an active reader, I now have a great appreciation for word choice because word choice allows you to understand the feeling the author wanted to convey and it helps you better understand the author's message and lessens the chance of you misinterpreting it. Choosing the word love over lust can make all the difference when writing and change the meaning entirely of the sentence.

In addition, I have also made progress as a writer. My previous writing had many grammatical errors, confusing sentences faulty word choices. I also had some issues organizing my essays my topic, a majority of the time some of my ideas were spilling over into other paragraphs and this class has helped me fix those issues. Toolwire has greatly affected me as a writer, it taught me how to effectively and properly use commas and semicolons. For instance, in my first time capsule entry, I wrote "I have always struggled with this because it is normally difficult for me to find my errors because I normally see my first draft as very good this struggle is something that I would like to improve on because it hinders my writing and prevents me from presenting my ideas in the most effective way". With the knowledge that I have gained, I am now aware that a comma in between good and this would have helped my sentence to flow better. A comma is also needed because the sentence can be split into two independent clauses. For example, in my annotated bibliography I stated " Euthanasia is very similar to suicide, the only distinction is that it is done in a painless way with the assistance of a medical professional,

yet this is legalized in some areas while suicide has a negative stigma surrounding it.” This quote from my recent writing demonstrates my use of commas showing that I have grown in my use of punctuation. In my writing, I have become more aware of the words I choose to use. When writing I think about how the word will add or take away from my sentence and how the word choice may affect the reader. Looking back on previous works I would write them over if I could and select better word choices. I would like to change one particular sentence in my “Experience With Various English thread”, the sentence states “The English I used with the financial aid office was my best professional English, I choose this English to use because I was speaking with a place of business and wanted to be taken seriously.” I would rewrite this sentence so that my thoughts are more coherent. In a rewrite I would write “ While speaking with the financial aid office, I maintained professional language and tone because a financial aid office is a place of business and I believed that it would help me to be taken seriously.” This rewrite conveys my message clearer and had better choice words allowing the sentence to fit in an academic piece of writing. Overall I have seen improvements in my writing and I am proud of how far it has come.

Furthermore, I grew as a student this year. The fall semester has proven to be very difficult for me. At one point I felt as though the whole world was against me because if there was even a slight chance that something could go wrong for me, it inevitably happened against all odds. There were quite a few occasions that semester that I felt like giving up. However, I persisted and powered my way through any obstacle that I was currently facing and tried to put my best foot forward and make progress this school year. I found the educational narratives that I read semester to be inspirational and they motivated me to not give up.

In conclusion, I have grown as a reader, writer, and student this year. I will use the skills I learned as a reader and writer to improve not only my academic writing but also my personal writing. I can apply my new skills to real-world situations by paying attention to the word choice people use when speaking and in text messages to better understand the hidden messages behind what they are saying. The lessons and skills I learned as a student will be put to use in my daily life from now on so that I never lose sight of where I want to be in life.