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Final Reflection

Looking back over the course of the semester, I've realized what a privilege it was to be able to have the opportunity to research and write about topics I was interested in. I truly believe that being passionate reflects in one's writing. From my experience in English Composition 1121, I noticed how I've improved and enhanced my reading and writing skills. My progress is evident from Unit One: A Portrait of a Word, Unit Two: Feature Story – Finding Your Beat, until Unit Three: New Audience, New Genre where I focused on the techniques of writing. Each unit was unique and offered challenges that helped me to use my creativity and style of writing.

One of the important insights I gained this semester is the skill of how to articulate personal experiences into professional writing. For Unit One: A Portrait of a Word essay, I found it quite difficult to choose one word that I wanted to write about. However, after being exposed to other similar literary pieces that involved the importance of one word, I was able to narrow down my options. In my final essay, "Embracing "Allahu akbar" — A Sacred Phrase," I demonstrated how the word, "Allahu akbar" was a significant word used throughout my life. I enjoyed writing this piece because it revealed more about myself and a glimpse into my life. I was also able to explore the discourse community I belonged to and how others looked to it.

Throughout the past few months, I've also been able to learn how to incorporate AI tools to enhance and improve my writing, including understanding the correct way in using AI so as to not plagiarize. In today's modern world, AI has become rampant, especially in education. Therefore, learning how to use AI is a vital skill to possess. This particular class made me realize that AI is not a scary or forbidden tool to use for students, rather students can learn to use this tool to improve. In particular, I have used AI for all of my assignments to check on grammar, as well as how clear and concise the writing is.

The article for Unit Two: Feature Story – Finding Your Beat was one that truly challenged my writing. This is because unlike the previous essay where I was in charge of the story and how to tell it, I was to collect field research and information from diverse sources to back up my writing. This feature article also focused on our passion, which I appreciated because it made it way easier to research and look in-depth at the topic. My article, “Redefining Modesty: Unveiling the Truth Behind the Portrayal of Muslim Women” focused on revealing the stereotypes and misrepresentations in the media when it comes to modest Muslim women, a demographic that is not represented. This unit truly helped me with building my credibility through research. Also, I was able to enhance my article writing skills for publications, such as Vanity Fair. This was challenging but fun because I was in the mindset of a writer that wrote for a large audience.

For the final Unit Three: New Audience, New Genre, I was challenged with changing my audience and had to choose a multimodal component that would convey my topic and message. Specifically, I chose to present my idea of spreading awareness about how modest Muslim women are portrayed in the media to City Tech freshmen by creating an infographic. This transition of first collecting research and then using creative tools made it easier to finish

this project. I had to use images and diverse texts to engage with my audience and invite them to take action for this cause. I personally enjoyed this unit the most since I was allowed more creative freedom.

Ultimately, this English Composition course has given me the confidence to present and articulate my ideas to the world.