



## WEEKLY WRITING JOURNAL: Week of February 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Specific Tasks

For my first task, Abby sent a practice essay, so I could get the handle of things and work out any kinks that would need to be addressed beforehand. As we are working with track changes in Word, I had to refresh myself on the editing process as I haven't really done editing of this caliber for a while. Of course, my previous editing course and this major in general has given me a better eye for catching and correcting issues in writing, whether it is my own or not. I did take my time with this one, as it was a way to gauge my capabilities when it came to editing. From then on, Abby sent me 4 other essays to edit, each with their own unique issues. However, all these essays were from the previous semester as the current one had not yet started on theirs. One thing she did specify was that for a lot of these students, English is not their first language.

### Learning Objectives

Scottie and I had gone to meet the classes which we would be working with this semester with Abby. This gave us a chance to not only meet Abby but Professor Blake and his students which we would be working with starting at the end of February when the essays were due. We had a chance to see what Abby and ClimateYou's objectives were and have a presence, however minuscule for now, with the classes. Abby told us that during the next classroom visits, she would want us to speak for a few minutes to discuss what we found in the essays, offer advice on writing, and anything we would like to point out from the work we've done as being students ourselves may allow the students to relate more to us.



Aside from this, the actual essays I edited gave me some idea on how to approach them. To the point, where I established a process to ensure that things go smoothly. This, however, took me about 4 essays to establish as I was just trying to figure out how to go about the editing procedure.

### **Challenges & Resolutions**

The practice essay was challenging as I did not have a system in place to conduct the editing and I found myself second-guessing a lot of decisions and adding comments instead of fixing errors. I was also editing more in the framework of something I would deliver as opposed to editing with ClimateYou's website design in mind. Abby ultimately told me I had done a good job with this practice essay aside from a few things I had failed to catch. Taking her comments to mind, I started to develop my process to ensure I do a better job which included a complete read, paragraph by paragraph edits, whole document edits, and text-to-speech. This process would be further refined throughout the essays I edited for the rest of the week and I'm sure it will continue to be in the following week.

The only issue I had was when one of the essays I was editing turned to be largely plagiarized and Abby notified me that this common and I should simply keep a keen eye for it and let her know.



**WEEKLY WRITING JOURNAL: Week of February 16th-22nd, 2019**

**Specific Tasks**

As the first deadline for the student essays had been reached, the editing work had been brought up to date. Some students sent in their essays early and others would send them in late. Either way, I felt that my work would truly begin now. As this was beginning, Abby was still in the process of getting to know my work ethic, so she had only sent 2 essays for me to edit. Thanks to my current schedule, I was able to get those back to her rather quickly.

**Learning Objectives**

Knowing that I'd be working with students who are not fluent with English meant my work would fluctuate between simple and difficult. In this batch of 6 essays, I worked on over the week, I had to deal with more plagiarism, basic writing mistakes, such as typos, incorrect word usage, and unconcise wording, and more substantial problems. Some would take about an hour and others would take about 2 hours in order to properly edit.

**Challenges & Resolutions**

At this point, I am still hesitant about making major changes, so I have been leaving comments for Abby so she could have the final say in the corrections. Perhaps it will become easier with time, as we get a better feeling for how this internship works. Aside from this, dealing with plagiarism is still quite a hassle. However, it has become immediately apparent when someone



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has plagiarized now. Generally, it is either too well written, too overly detailed, or the essay flows between great writing and not-so-great writing. I have less trouble spotting it and the only annoying part is finding where they took this material from and documenting it to show to Abby for her to deal with the situation. Lastly, my process for editing has continued as it was last week and has only been faster.



**WEEKLY WRITING JOURNAL: Week of February 23rd-1st, 2019**

**Specific Tasks**

The influx of essays had come in last week and as I worked on them, I had begun to catch mistakes quicker thus improving my response time. By this point, we have established that I will be sent 4 essays at a time unless they are less than that left to edit. Considering I can work on these almost every day, it makes this process faster.

**Learning Objectives**

For the most part, my interactions with Abby are relegated to the receiving and returning of essays. However, when problem essays arise, which have been entirely of the plagiarized nature so far, I do need to contact her again. This seems to have been happening virtually every week and Abby made sure to let me know about some guidelines for dealing with these types of essays as she is aware of how frequently this happens. I always try to stay on top of the emails she sends as well, especially if its an inquiry or something that is not her simply sending me another batch of essays.



### Challenges & Resolutions

While I knew some essays would be difficult and/or time-consuming, I didn't expect some of these to be so difficult to fix. It does seem as the essays keep coming, some have their difficulty increased. This week I had to deal with an essay which had to be fixed at almost every sentence. The most difficult part is trying to interpret what is being said and aiming to keep that message intact, sometimes it takes further research on my part. Another problem is the lack of sourcing, which sometimes makes me believe that this is done to avoid being caught of plagiarism. Lastly, at this point, my process for editing is established completely and I know it will stay like this for the coming weeks, I have made it into a routine that has been working for me so far.



**WEEKLY WRITING JOURNAL: Week of March 2nd-8th, 2019**

**Specific Tasks**

The tidal flow of essays reached its end this week and this meant we would have a few days off. The next deadline is upcoming, so I'll make the most of not having any essays to deal with until then. Wrapping up the last batch of essays was something I saw as a highlight because the start is usually the roughest part and things should only get easier from here.

**Learning Objectives**

The essays for this week were not too different from what I had handled before, however, I have noticed having to rewrite more and more. It seemed like before I'd simply fix errors and rewrite only when I absolutely had to. However, some of these essays need to be rewritten for clarity and to be much more concise. There is a lot of repetition when it comes to these essays, most likely to increase the word count.

**Challenges & Resolutions**

These essays do get taxing at times, considering the number of errors that can be found in them. Trying to correct everything means looking over them various times and I am starting to believe that I know more about climate change than ever before in my life, especially considering many students write about the same topics. Which makes it refreshing when I get



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one that is related to something specific or different than what everyone else has written about. My biggest frustration comes from students not listening to the directions and having for me to pick up their slack in that regard, only adding to my time working on the essays.



## WEEKLY WRITING JOURNAL: Week of March 9th-15th, 2019

### Specific Tasks

With another deadline passing us by, another huge influx of essays has come in and its back to a consistent stream of essays. Abby has given us updates on how we're doing and giving us good feedback on our progress. Knowing that the work I am doing is going well makes me feel better than simply moving forward with that uncertainty.

### Learning Objectives

As this is the second time around that I am editing some of these student's essays, I have picked up on what some write about and how they do so I can go in knowing what to expect. Abby has further detailed what we need to keep in mind when working on these, such as, ensuring the topic is related to climate change, having certain file names, and finding images for the essays where no image is utilized.

### Challenges & Resolutions

This week's essays have been rough, as most of them have been messes. These have been really time-consuming due to how poorly they were written both design wise and structurally. I dislike how most of these have also not bothered to include images meaning I have to go and find one myself that fits their essay's topic. However, all of this was simple compared to one I



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had the pleasure of working on this week. This one was not written as an essay, rather a just a series of sentences that came off as less of an essay and a bit more of a rant. I did my best to fix everything in this essay and this did take me a long time, compared to the rest. Hopefully, future essays are not going to be in this vein.



**WEEKLY WRITING JOURNAL: Week of March 16th-22nd, 2019**

**Specific Tasks**

This week was relatively simple, as we are still amid editing the second deadline's batch of essays.

**Learning Objectives**

Now, while this week was simple compared to others, Abby and I had to have a discussion over the essay I discussed last week. Despite doing all that I could to fix the essay, it seemed like the student did not appreciate the edits. He asked for it be removed as he said it was not what he had said. Apparently, this led to a heated chain of emails between him and Abby which meant getting the professor and I involved in the matter. Abby simply asked me what I did while working on the essay if I noted anything off about the essay, and to generally give my opinion over the essay. I replied to the best of ability and it seemed like the two of them would handle the situation from there.

**Challenges & Resolutions**

This was the first time that any essay had come back in this manner. It seemed like every other student was okay with the edits that I had been making. In this particular essay, I did remove things that I had deemed unnecessary or too vulgar while trying to interpret the point that was



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trying to be made. Perhaps my assessment was off the mark in this regard or there is another issue involving the essay as it did come off as more a rant than an essay. Either way, the situation is being dealt with and I'll continue with my tasks as normal.



**WEEKLY WRITING JOURNAL: Week of March 23rd-29th, 2019**

**Specific Tasks**

Once again, we have reached the end of another batch of essays. This week had consisted of wrapping up the final stretch of essays and this did mean I had more to work with, however, this was not a problem. From here, we will have another week before we reach the next deadline so that means not having to worry any essays for a bit.

**Learning Objectives**

A good thing to note is how Abby has been encouraging regarding the work being done, I always appreciate feedback, both positive and negative as it gives me an idea of how I am doing, rather than working in the dark. I try to stay on top of any emails and all the essays that are being sent. Abby is also asking about whether the workload is too much or anything, thankfully, for me, this internship has not been trouble and I've been able to handle it well.

**Challenges & Resolutions**

After the eventful week last week, it was nice to just have simple essays to work on. I do find myself giving myself extra work when it comes to these essays now as well. I keep doing more and more to ensure that the essays come out well, as well as, realizing how annoying the ones being sent can be. So many of these essays are sent without sources, without images, and



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designed terribly, it does seem like they know they must do it and do it last minute or they just don't bother to try considering someone else is editing it. Getting essays which are practically perfect are a double-edged sword too. As I find myself double checking to ensure it isn't plagiarized. However, when I do receive ones that are well written with little mistakes, it's a nice break.



## WEEKLY WRITING JOURNAL: Week of April 3rd-11th, 2019

### Specific Tasks

The third and final deadline has come and gone, which means the final batch of essays to edit for the semester. This does make it seem like the end is approaching. While my internship runs until May 31<sup>st</sup>, I don't believe it'll run that long considering we are in the endgame regarding the essays now. I did get some early essays, before the deadline, but the real work came right after.

### Learning Objectives

I still find myself working on essays that have a myriad of issues which means having to ensure that my process is still up to speed. I made sure to add a plagiarism checker aspect to it, instead of simply relying on trying to catch it myself. Things have been going well and it shows in how my interactions will Abby have cut down to simply the sending and returning of essays.

### Challenges & Resolutions

Now, this being the third time I work with these student essays, I know them by name and what to expect out of them. It makes it easier to divide the work and know which ones will be more time-consuming. Of course, I still receive new ones that either Abby or Scotte have worked on



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previously that are a wrench in my plans but, for the most part, I can play with which ones I edit when. From here on out, wrapping up these final essays shouldn't be a problem.