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English Composition II

Professor Carrie Hall

Final Portfolio and Reflection

Throughout the semester my writing has developed into something that I’ve never knew that it can become. Although my writing has developed in many ways, this doesn’t mean that it’s as equivalent to a journalist working for the New York times, but who knows maybe one day it could be. Although, my writing has improved there always space for improvement. Looking back on my writing I’m surprised on how much it has changed especially within the first two units. Units one and two has helped me learned from my mistakes and take recognition of them. Both of these units have also helped me think outside of the box and expand my mind. Within this final portfolio and reflection, we’ll get the chance to look back on some of my prior writing assignments and revise the development of my work.

Unit one was based on a short word or phrase that is important to you and your discourse community. If you’re not familiar with what a discourse community is, it can be best described as a group of people who may share the same values or interest. Throughout all of the units I struggled with unit one the most. It sounds so simple because people speak different phrases every day, but for me it was hard to think of one that actually held some kind of value to me. I came up with the word salty. Wasn’t the best word but its something that my neighborhood friends and I grew up saying almost everyday and even today. I named the essay “The Chronicles of the word Salty”. Somewhat similar to “The Chronicles of Narnia” but not quite. Within my essay I tried my best to speak on the involvement that the word salty had with my childhood. It was kind of difficult to think of things that happened nearly ten years ago, but after having a few conversations with my childhood friends concerning the word a lot of memories started to re-enter my mind.

The main issue that I had with unit one was organization. The right words were there but just in the wrong parts. Unit one was also based on a sort of story telling experience, but sometimes it seemed as if my words were all merged together, and I wasn’t necessarily getting the idea of the paragraph out. For example, here’s a snippet of the essay I wrote it states, “My first time using the word salty was at our local pool. My friends and I were swimming and joking around in the pool when I accidently splashed a bit of water into Adia’s eyes as I was trying to perform a back flip. This made her highly upset as she continued to state, I can’t see I can’t see. We were all young at the time, so I didn’t take her seriously. My only response was stop being a salty baby.” During that part of the essay, I wish I had elaborated more on the situation and used better grammar, but overall, It wasn’t such a bad essay and it scored me a “B”. Letting it be known that it wasn’t my best work, but it also wasn’t my worst either.

Although this was my least favorite unit there was still some parts that I am truly proud of for example there was a part of the essay where I wrote about an incident that happened with my friends and I at the bar it stated, “On my way over to the bar I accidentally bumped into another women. I immediately apologized, but I can tell she was already drunk because the first words to come out of her mouth was watch where you’re going jerk. Knowing she was in the wrong I quickly said you better watch your mouth before I show you who’s a jerk salty. My friends and I saw the confrontation and quickly came over before it escalated. We decided to head out to another bar to avoid any further issues, but on my way out I screamed out, forget you salty hoes. My friends burst out laughing as we headed u west 4th street.” This was my favorite part of the essay because I felt like I provided the audience with a vivid imagery of the situation and a sense of the kind of language that was being used.

Throughout all of the Units that I wrote for the semester unit two was my favorite. It was an Inquiry based research paper that was based on the kind of changes/ impact that you would like to have towards your community or the world. The name of my paper was, “The Battle of Obesity vs Poverty”. I spoke on the day-to-day challenges that people living within poverty have to face with being obese. I not only spoke on the challenges but as well as the efforts that can be made so that they may be able to expand their eating habits. Within the essay it stated “This article isn’t being written to tell people how they should eat, rather it is being given to be helpful and informative. It’s informative because its helping to bring forth awareness for people that are currently living within poverty and are being faced with obesity.”

I believed that this statement from my essay best described the message that I was trying to deliver to the audience. The message that I was trying to deliver is that low-income families do not have the choice to choose so let’s help them have a choice. Such as developing public policies that can help promote access to healthy low – fat high fiber foods and setting up health care trainers that’s willing to come out and encourage those families on their weight lost. I especially enjoyed this unit because it felt as if I was writing within a realistic article that can actually help make a difference within the lives of others, and through that audience my message was being heard loud and clear.

Unit three was based on documenting your life. Rather if its in a podcast or a comic strip it was to be based on a multimodal. Mines was based on a poem named “growth”. I felt that a poem based on growth was necessary for this unit. It may sometimes feel as if we’re growing in either height, age or health but what about self-growth and growth from within. When writing this poem, I wasn’t to familiar on poems or how to write one but I felt as if a poem was necessary. I wanted to express my feelings and emotions towards the needed growth that I desperately needed within my life. It also provided me with a chance to speak from within and to self-reflect. This unit was actually an interesting one. Seeing that I wasn’t to familiar with poems I wasn’t sure if it would sounded enjoyable but to my surprise my classmates actually loved it and that meant a lot of to me. I felt as if Unit three provided my classmates and I a chance to be creative with our writing/voices while also expressing our thoughts at the same time

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Looking back on the progress that I made throughout all of my assignments is incredible. From the endless units that were to be completed each week, to all of the reading assignments, essays and revisions, it all provided me with the knowledge that I’ve grown to develop today. I’m especially grateful for the challenges that those assignment provided me with. I always live off the saying, “In order to succeed you must fail, so you know what not to do next.” I think this is a powerful message because its stating that its ok to fail, especially within your writing. As long as you give it your best and continue to improvement all of those mistakes will turn into lesson learned. As I go on into my final college years, I will continue to carry with me the things that I’ve learned from this course and the strengths that it provided me with. An English course is based on helping you discover your critical thinking, vocabulary and grammar, organization and finding your own voice through your writing and within this class I think I did exactly that.