

ENG 1121

Joshua Aguila

Final Reflection

Reflecting on my personal growth as a writer, I realized it has been a process that involved both challenges and milestones I've experienced along the way. In the early stages, my writing was characterized by a lack of confidence as I struggled with finding my own voice. When trying to come up with ideas or topics to write about, my mind would often go blank, overwhelmed by the many possibilities to write about. Furthermore, ensuring my points were conveyed clearly to my audience as well as minimizing grammatical errors were hurdles, I had to overcome throughout my process as a writer. However, each piece I wrote, whether a narrative story, research essay, or even a journal entry, contributed to my understanding of the writing process, and were steps towards improvement.

One of the most significant aspects of my growth has been learning to embrace revision. Initially, I found it difficult to critique my own work as the words on the page felt permanent, and the idea of changing them was put off. I viewed my first drafts as final products, reluctant to make changes for fear of losing the original essence of my work. Over time, I realized that revision is necessary and a vital part of writing. It is through this process that ideas are clarified, mistakes are corrected, and the overall piece of writing is polished. Embracing revision has taught me that making mistakes initially is okay and that recognizing these mistakes will ultimately lead to better writing in the future.

Feedback from peers and my professor through discussion boards and posted comments has also been crucial in my development. Constructive criticism helped me identify my weaknesses and provided new perspectives on how to improve. Over time, I learned to separate myself from my work and view feedback as a tool for improvement rather than a judgment.

Constructive criticism helped me identify my weaknesses and offered new perspectives on how to enhance my writing. This process required a willingness to learn, which not only improved my writing but also fostered personal growth. Learning to accept and apply feedback allowed me to be open and receptive to growth.

Throughout this journey, I have also become more aware of the social and cultural aspects of writing. Recognizing the impact that words can have on individuals and communities has been learned at the beginning of the course with my Unit 1: Portrait of a Word assignment. This assignment has taught me the power of storytelling and how to connect with readers on a personal level, particularly by informing them about the word “mad”, and its importance in my discourse community of New York. Therefore, from this, I learned and discovered that words can have multiple interpretations and can hold significant influence within a specific community.

Reflecting on Unit 2, through research, I honed my skills in locating and evaluating sources. This involved not only finding credible academic articles but also analyzing their content to determine their relevance to my topic. I learned to differentiate between primary and secondary sources and to incorporate both types to strengthen my paper. While researching for my paper on “Stress and Its Effects,” I had the opportunity to engage with the world by speaking with several college students at City Tech and working adults. This allowed me to gain their perspectives on my topic and develop a connection to my research. This experience taught me that writing is more than just putting words on paper, but also involves engaging with the world around you.

Another crucial moment in my process was understanding the importance of different genres and writing styles. Exposure to different genres has expanded my understanding of the possibilities

within writing. In Unit 3, creating my multimodal project, I learned to pay attention to my audience and display my information in a manner that best resonates with them.