

I would like to start by saying that I enjoyed this English course offered at City Tech and if I had a chance to retake the course I would take the chance. As I look back on the work done early on in the semester up until now, I notice there has been significant progress and improvement in my coursework. Writing and brainstorming ideas are not always easy to do when it comes to writing a paper but many useful resources can help you out if you are ever stuck. Useful resources and reliable information have helped me prosper in this class. One of the things I enjoyed during this course was participating in the discussion boards given by the professor and including replies to at least two peers. Discussion board posts are sufficient and help you voice your opinion on a topic. I can share my thoughts with my peers which I enjoy. I also enjoy waiting to see what my classmates will say and I usually read them to see if they align with my discussion post thread. My least favorite assignment isn't anything specific but I want to say that the Unit 1 discourse community letter was a very difficult assignment to work on as far as picking an audience. The concept of discourse communities was not difficult to understand and I realized that I am a part of many discourse communities and so is everyone else.

Reading rubrics and grading criteria is very crucial to completing your assignments. Throughout this semester, I took time to read my assignments and the rubrics given to me to make sure I didn't forget any important requirements that needed to be analyzed in my writing. My overall approach to writing (and reading and thinking) as the genres changed because I can identify my strengths and weaknesses and use this to become a better writer.

Being introduced to Grammarly has helped me a lot during this semester with my editing such as grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. I have taken other writing courses at other institutions so I am aware of basic knowledge on the following topics but I am a little rusty when

it comes to knowing pronouns, adjectives, etc. I had a hard time using these in my writing and Grammarly helped me with no issues.

This writing course helped me improve my practice with writing. The most effective ways to improve my writing are to practice writing and to have someone proofread my work. I was able to learn about discourse communities and which ones apply to me and my daily life. Discourse communities involve people with shared goals and common interests, and we speak to one another about these shared interests. Discourse communities that apply to me vary in different forms whether it is the slang I use amongst my friends, being a black woman growing up in America, listening to rap/hip-hop music, going to a PWI as a black person, and much more. We all are a part of many discourse communities that we may not even be aware of. I enjoyed writing about police brutality toward the African-American community and how it affects one's mental health. The Black Lives Matter Movement was created as a discourse community to share the common goal of ending police violence against unharmed colored people. The issue addressing police violence has been going on for decades and it all falls back to unethical police violations and overusing their power of authority. They take their power and use it so improperly to the point we are losing our lives left and right at the hands of the police.

I realized while writing about this topic that I can share important details about my daily life in my writing without feeling like I'm oversharing. Writing is a great way to express yourself and connect with your audience on an emotional level. My target audience was the representative of the 15th district, Ritchie Torres, who oversees the South Bronx area. Depending on who your audience is, the tone and mood of your writing can change because different audiences have different expectations. I chose the U.S. representative for New York's 15th congressional district as my target audience because it's one of the smallest districts in the country, covering only a few

square miles. I want to show him that I'm passionate about the issue of police brutality and how it creates trauma for people of color who experience violence from the police. Using a call to action also helped me address the problem and come up with solutions.

The Black Lives Matter movement was made because as a whole black people are tired of seeing innocent people of color be murdered by police for simply no justified reason. We connect emotionally with one another because we feel the pain of the families who lost their loved ones due to corrupt police. Not just black people but people of all races and minorities come together to support this movement because we want to see a change.

When I willingly entered this course I had dreadful thoughts because I usually hate having to write essays and long papers. But these thoughts left my mind once I started to attend the class more and see my writing improve. I entered this semester as a transfer student taking a gap year from Montclair State University and my mind wasn't as sharp because I haven't been in a school setting for over a year. I immediately had the mindset to focus on school and no longer procrastinate when it comes to studying and submitting assignments on time. I wanted to use this writing course to improve my writing skills but also use my instructor's and peers' feedback to expand my point of view on certain topics. Peer feedback that stood out to me was when a peer added to my discussion response relating to it because this made me feel good about my response.

My experience in this English writing course involved revising assignments to perfect my drafts which are also useful when it comes to writing. Overall, I enjoyed sharing my thoughts and experiences through my writing this semester and I would recommend anyone looking to improve their writing to take this course.

