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ENG1101

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Final Reflection & Portfolio

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Final Reflection

This semester felt short, however I learned more about myself this semester than the rest of my school life. As a reader and writer in high school I hardly felt any challenge while writing because I was just learning the bread and butter of how to write. However, this semester I felt like my writing style and how I read grew as I learned more about how I can improve my writing and how I can be a better writer. This allowed me to learn how I could change my writing style and how I be a better reader. I developed my writing skills more this semester and improved how I read and gather information by using techniques such as learning to read like a writer. I learned how to use sources properly, to learn how I can improve my punctuation and grammar, and I learned how I can use my resources effectively in an essay. All these things I have learned and mentioned have helped me and not just for this class but can help me throughout my lifetime. These skills can be used in all my other classes as when I am working on my writing or researching something I can now take the knowledge and facts I learned to better my work. This means that not only have I become a better writer and reader, but I have become a better researcher and overall, a better student.

"I never thought anything was wrong with life. No one ever thinks that at first but eventually the mind wanders off slowly it gets there, even if it is by accident or a series of events, we are all human. For me what started this sequence was both an accident and done on Purpose. I mean it was bound to happen eventually but for me it happened later than I would have wanted to, and it all started with just one *tick.... * tick"... * tick" This was a quote from my unit 1 essay. Personally, I like looking at my introductions as they are my best work and here, it stays true. This shows how I created an introduction that can bring the reader in and does not say too much but makes them think about a personal experience or about any struggle. I used grammar, punctuation, and writing techniques to help accomplish this which is skills I had but not able to fully do as I was not a good writer going into this semester. However, now I can use what I have been taught to its fullest.

"So, with this being the case, is there anything we can do to change the gun laws to make it so less people can obtain guns? From the research, I expect to find a direct answer to my question because if the gun laws have barely changed for years, there must be a reason. I expected to see laws specific to guns we can use to change the gun laws. With many activists voicing their opinions there should be multiple ideas to fix and change the gun laws. With this I knew what I had to look for and what I had to know to answer my question." This is a quote from my unit 2 essay. I chose this quote because this is how a reporter would talk. I was unbiased and I was just using the facts presented to help with what I was trying to research without stating an opinion and trying to answer a question only. Even though using unbiased sources and being unbiased

was touched upon in class I took what I learned and took it into consideration to make my piece better.

“Character: “he is funny and smart like Rebecca, not everyone likes him”

A stick figure appears with a sad face on it

* a number 3 appears on screen but as soon as the 3 disappears a tombstone appears, and the music stops*

A number 4 appears” This is a small excerpt from the script I wrote for unit 3. I specifically chose this part as it is shown as a script which is what a PSA must be at first as the script is a blueprint for what is shown or said. All my research on PSAs from class and outside allowed me to make a script that resembles a real PSA which was a lot of fun to make.

Unit 1

I never thought anything was wrong with life. No one ever thinks that at first but eventually the mind wanders off slowly it gets there, even if it is by accident or a series of events, we are all human. For me what started this sequence was both an accident and done on Purpose. I mean it was bound to happen eventually but for me it happened later than I would have wanted to, and it all started with just one *tick.... * tick" ... * tick

Getting lost in my head is a thing that I never really intended on, but still being a kid, it was normal for me often I enjoyed it, it is fun. However, it is not good in serious situations like a state exam or even as I am writing this. I was stuck just staring at the paper. I knew how to do the work, I needed to do the work, but just could not. Something was just telling me to look and listen. In a room full of 7th graders, (just like myself at the time) Just writing essay upon essay, I was the only one not doing anything. Telling myself I need to work I just could not. I listened instead, something was distracting me, and it was the clock in the front of the room. I can hear it is * tick... tick..., tick! Becoming just an annoyance to me, I start getting extremely... bored. For some unknown reason I am not infuriated Frustrated I am just bored. Tired of listening to the sound I lose myself in my head. It was not till the teacher announced "30 minutes left" that I realized what was going on. I am 30 minutes behind, and I do not know what I am doing. I am lost... I am not going to finish... I am scared. After the exam everyone is asking" what did you get for this' "oh you got that me too; but for me my answer's fit not match what they were saying I felt ashamed.

Coming home I felt embarrassed and ashamed. “I failed” was a sentence I repeated over and over in my head. I thought about the exam the entire day. I genuinely did not know why I could not focus and do my work. Curious I now start paying closer attention to the things I do after this exam as I know this is not normal and this should not have happened. After a while, this incident leaves my head and I forget about it for a while. Eventually other stuff starts happening. I started realizing I was not able to read

properly. On reading exams, I would flop because I could not understand it for some unknown reason. I would get way too distracted easily however I brushed it off as I do not like reading. This continued in other classes though, math, social studies, and even my homework I would get way too distracted in the classes and this would cost me but not as much as English would. I did not know why at the time, but I was not good at this subject. However, growing up and going to high school I started to realize why.

It was my last period of the day; it was my English class, and we had an exam on a text. I was nervous about the test; I knew that I was not the best in English. When the time came to do the exam, I froze not because I did not know what to do but because I could not keep my eyes focused on the words I was reading. I would read the first few words then my eyes would lose focus and I would end up 4 sentences down without having any clue what I passed what I had already read, and the words would get jumbled around. This happened for a long time I was terrified however this happened a lot to me and I would always feel the same way. Just for this time and this time it brought me back to how I felt when I was taking my state exam and so I started panicking. Eventually all I could hear was the noise from the clock in the room again. All I could hear was *tick...tick...tick*. As the minutes went by, I knew I was not doing anything. I knew I was screwed from the moment I lost focus I just had no clue what was going on.

After this incident I immediately started thinking *what was wrong with me why would I do this, this is not normal is it*. I knew I did not do this on purpose so after this I began to pay attention to everything I started to do and everything I did. I had other moments where I have done this, but I never bat an eye because these were not major events. Suddenly, I just remember all these times in my life where I have either lost my attention, stared at an assignment, or just was unable to read and I had an epiphany. Something was wrong with me, and I did not know what it was, I needed help. That was my first step to solving this whole mess. "Why was I struggling so much in class" was something I asked myself for my whole life and me acknowledging this was an issue to me meant there is something I can do. I waited an entire year before admitting to someone I felt like something was wrong with me. It was the worst thing I could have done as I wasted a full year with my issue and not getting help. However, quarantine happened, and this was not good for me as this just meant I had to wait longer.

Finally, once everything started going back to normal, I went to a doctor and when I told them they gave me a referral to a psychiatrist to see what was going on and what was wrong. After 3 weeks they said I had adhd which was the big reason I had to work 3 times harder than most people but eventually I accepted it. I accepted who I was and what I had. I am extremely proud of myself for getting the help.

Unit 2

Guns have been a part of American history since the day it was founded. It has been centuries now and with a new age comes solutions to old problems, however this also brings recent problems too. With the fact that everyone and anyone can obtain a gun including criminals, kids, and mentally unstable people. With this, why is this the way it is? Many activists and people

protest and want to change one thing, that being our gun laws with the main statement being “we want them to change.” Ever since the start of mass shootings this statement has been said throughout decades. Sadly, it took incidents such as columbine, sand hook, and the Aurora Colorado shooting to get people's attention on the matter. Now with millions of Americans knowing and seeing these tragedies many are protesting and trying there hardest to try to change the gun laws so that something like this does not happen again, so why has nothing happened yet? It has been almost 10 years since these tragedies and the farthest we have gotten is needing gun licenses in 3 states in the United States. So, with this being the case, is there anything we can do to change the gun laws to make it so less people can obtain guns? From the research, I expect to find a direct answer to my question because if the gun laws have barely changed for years, there must be a reason. I expected to see laws specific to guns we can use to change the gun laws. With many activists voicing their opinions there should be multiple ideas to fix and change the gun laws. With this I knew what I had to look for and what I had to know to answer my question.

Yvonne Leow, Allison Rockey, German Lopez, and Joe Posner, “America’s gun problem, explained in 90 seconds”, uploaded by Vox on December 3rd, 2015

Summary

Ever since the sandy hook massacre in 2015 there have been an estimated amount of 1,042 mass shootings in the US alone. After one of these shootings, it is time to do something about it as we need to do something to prevent these shootings. The United States is the only other developed country in the world that has 4 times more gun violence incidents then other countries. Americans own about 42% of all firearms in the world. Gun deaths are mostly associated with mass shootings, however mass shootings make up a small percentage of all gun deaths. “Suicides make up a majority amount of gun deaths making up about 62% of all gun deaths while homicides make up 31%.” Mass shootings only make up 1.5%. It is also shown how states with more guns have more deaths. About 85% of people are in favor of background checks for gun shows and private sales, 80% are in favor of preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns, and 67% of people are in favor of a federal database to track gun sales. With this it shows most people in favor of gun laws but due to many pro-gun politicians having a large say over gun laws, gun laws remain the same. Some gun laws have been changed such as establishing a national gun registry and requiring permits for firearm purchases. If we and more changes such as background checks and licensing it can stop dangerous people from getting their hands on dangerous things.

Reflection

Many people are in favor of adding more gun laws, however gun laws do not change. It has been many years since incidents including sandy hook and we have had a lot of mass shootings and violence/death due to guns. However, people forget that “Suicides make up a majority amount of gun deaths making up about 62% of all gun deaths while homicides make up 31%”. This is a serious occurrence as we see all these tragedies on the news, but we do not mention the biggest

tragedies guns because which is suicides. Better background checks and permits stop people with mental health from ending their lives and committing a terrible thing to themselves.

Madeline Marshall," the gun solution we are not talking about" YouTube, uploaded by Vox, September 19, 2001 <https://youtu.be/ENw2y0ek1Jg>

Summary

Politicians always say that gun laws need to change many ways by adding background checks. However, there is already a background check in place in gun stores. This database goes through an FBI database however gun shows, and illegal dealers do not use background checks so realistically everyone and anyone can own a firearm. The gun store database is not so great though as the FBI database is not up to date and is missing millions of records and because of this making background checks affect gun shows or even private dealers would not work. The background checks also only check for people with a criminal record not people who might be dangerous however most states need licenses to have gun and makes the system a lot more difficult to own a gun people who might be dangerous or law-abiding citizens. Research and data show that licenses work and are effective more than only background checks

Reflection

This video by Vox shows how realistically adding one thing to our current laws would be able to change our gun laws and make them a lot safer than ever. The video shows how it is quite easy for a criminal or in this case anyone can obtain a gun at any point in time. This is extremely dangerous as extremely dangerous people can obtain weapons and firearms and use them for terrible things as the video shows how many horrific acts already committed were committed by people who were already criminals yet passed background checks. This shows how ineffective the background checks are and even though this is a system that every state has everyone in politics say how we should add them but by just adding licenses that makes the gun laws safer. This brings up my research question "can we change the gun laws" the answer is we can. The research shown in the video shows how states with gun licenses in place have significantly low suicide and crime rates compared to states with just background checks. From the video it said only few states had them however if we can get the licenses implemented in every state this might solve gun laws and gun issues many states in the United States all have and it would prevent us from seeing a lot less news about gun violence every day.

Donohue, John J., et al. "Right-to-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Control Analysis." *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, vol. 16, no. 2, 2019, pp. 198–247, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jels.12219>.

Summary

The article shows more than enough data and evidence throughout 2014 that show statistics that show the impact of violent crimes to the right to conceal and carry laws. This is because the issue does “more guns equal less crime” has been an issue going on for about 2 decades. This is because back in 1997 someone published a paper explaining why guns are good as they reduce crime, however due to a lot of errors and not fixing them led to misconceptions about guns specifically how they affect violent crimes. Statistically speaking a law-abiding citizen with a permit to conceal and carry using a gun to stop a crime is statistically a rare occurrence. With 99.2% of the time failing to scare or threaten the criminal. Even with citizens with permits to conceal and carry it is said by an FBI study that the citizen runs the chance to increase the damage by killing the criminal or shootings a bystander (innocent party). However, this does not mean that no one should do it as there are cases where the citizen conceals and carries safely disarms the criminal as a total of “21 of 160 active shootings cases end with the criminal being detained safely.” Both being a good and bad of people owning guns. But the right to conceal and carry laws unknowingly are associated with a “13-15% higher violent crime rate than without them.”

Reflection

The article above shows how there are two points of view to every side. Each side has its points and reasons, in this case the main point is that gun's specificity can lead to good actions or terrible consequences. This article is an unbiased source that can clearly show both sides. However, the data presented shows how guns severely affect the lives of others. “13-15% higher violent crime rate than without them” this is an extremely high crime rate compared to places that do not have conceal and carry laws. This brings up my research question “can we change the gun laws?” This article does not answer how we can change the gun laws but most importantly brings perspective on why we need to change them. The most important part of the sources is finding out why people think there needs to be a change. This peer reviewed article sheds lighter on the why of the situation rather than what we can do in an effective way.

The laws that we have for our guns and firearms in our world today are being questioned. Can we change them? Is there anything we can do? The answer is we can. The first citation above shows the tragedies guns can cause other than murders and mass shootings in this case it is suicides that are the biggest source of gun violence. This sheds a whole new light on the subject showing how the gun violence is not limited to just mass shooting however mass shootings are still a large part of our lives especially now in today's age sadly. In the second citation, it talks about why our current system is not working and because of its dangerous people can obtain weapons without stopping them. The 3rd citation shows data on the good and the bad of guns in the United States and shows how states with guns specifically conceal and carry laws have a “13-15% higher violent crime rate”. To my shock many other sources only talk about one thing or the other being biased sources. When researching my opinion on the subject was not affected but it was sided for a while because of many articles and videos. What I learned was so important because it shows how gun laws do not work and why they cannot. They also

provide a way to add and fix the gun laws by using gun licenses. The to solve many issues to prevent dangerous people from obtaining guns. The people that need to hear this first are the people in government who make the laws as well as is not gun groups as they can use the information to give a stronger argument as it is unbiased however unintentionally sides with them to help create a safer society.

Unit 3

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2022d308/2022/12/08/david-mendez-medina-u3-writing-assignment-part-1-and-part-2/>

Optional Revision of Unit X- No revision