

Jacky Dong

ENG1101

12/20

Final Reflection & Portfolio

I've discovered several things about myself this semester, both positive and negative. As a writer I've learned why can't I write like a professional writer. Being able to read like a writer could always avoid misunderstanding of the text and be able to stand in the writer's view on certain things. And revising my writing is also a very important concept to include in my writings. Before enrolling in this course, I believed that writing consisted of nothing more than stringing together sentences and assuming that they made sense. Moreover, I've discovered that there are numerous approaches to go about conducting informational research. As I come across these techniques, I've also noticed that I often have to read passages again because I usually find it difficult to comprehend them the first time. I was able to read more clearly as a result.

Everything I learnt in this course was able to help me succeed in my subsequent classes. In my future writing class, I could use these techniques to succeed in writing in the class. These are excellent pointers for me to be aware of for any future jobs where I'll need to write letters introducing myself. There are way more ways that I could use what I've learned in this semester which have not come to my head yet. However, it's going to lead me to succeed in my career.

In my Unit 1 essay, it talks about my learning process and how I could use my experience to teach others, so it's made into an educational narrative. I've quoted an example of my essay, which is "After all that was said, your destiny is in your own hands." This example means that no one could tell you what your life is, only yourself could know how your own life is.

In my unit 2 bibliography essay, which is the one I want to revise, it talks about the effect of poverty on children's development. In this essay I've made some mistakes, some of them are not in alphabetical order, and some of them did not express my thoughts clearly. One example I found in my essay is "People don't typically pay the poor child more attention than others, whether it's at school or at work, which is why I became interested in this subject." This could reveal that the topic is unseen by people and it's still happening right now. Furthermore, I've changed some of the wordings in my essay and hopefully it's better than before.

In my unit 3 project, it's related back to my unit 2 bibliography, however I need to choose a genre to spread my ideas to people who need to see it. And this is where I understand most of my topics at. One quote I'll use from my essay is "As I start to do this project, I feel that I've learned more information than I usually know. And it gave me a more clear understanding about my topic, in a fun way." This explains that using a method I choose could greatly increased the understanding of topic to me and the audience.

I'd like to add on to my unit 2 bibliography essay, I didn't have a clear understanding of my own topic. Which makes me sometimes can't explain it clearly. I notice this when I finish my unit 3 project, so I kind of change it a little more than before which makes it easier to understand. And this have to be brought back to how this course had built me into. Overall I enjoyed this class and hopefully everybody could succeed in their life and make the best out of it.

Final Reflection

Unit 1

Everybody has the experience of not having your homework ready on the date that is due, and the teacher is standing right in front of me and staring at me. Right? That's what I usually experience in the first few years in New York. They would constantly stare at you in perfect quiet with chilly eyes before abruptly shouting at you. They appear to be capable of tearing down your entire body in a second, in your opinion. No matter how much time it happens, the same feeling will never go away. Oh, by the way my name is Jacky. Wonder why I didn't say my last name? Be ready, my last name is Dong. I know, I know, people laugh at it a lot. When you call my first name and last name together, it will sound like Jacky just got hit by a big steel ball.

The reasons why I miss assignments can vary, just as I mentioned. I miss part of my assignments not just because I don't want to— that's one of the reasons. However, the other problem was I didn't understand most of the questions. Most people would assume that elementary school work must be simple. Nonono not for me, I did not understand and was not able to read and write English. And So it was a very tough time for me to get through. I had a depressed feeling of learning. And felt like a bee without a head, unsure of where I was headed.

However, something changed me. It was in the summer, where I began to be interested in the history of dinosaurs —you know, Kids do that. I started to find books, videos and started to read all the information that's available. Reading has always been my favorite way to learn something. It doesn't just put the information in your brain, it brings you into an image of what's happening during the period. And during this time, I've gone to a lot of libraries, so I often know how to locate a certain section of books on my own. I still remember once when a librarian watched me walk around the bookshelf like a wandering soul. He came over and chose some books for me and began to explain the contents of the books to me. All I remember was that the more I listened to it, the more excited I became. When I heard it, I was reluctant to let him stop.

But you all know that the happier you are, the faster the time passes, so the day ended fast, and I wasn't fully satisfied with it. I took myself up and read the book I borrowed from the library myself. I fell into meditation when I watched these pictures, as if the dinosaurs in these pictures were swimming in front of me. Their huge bodies rubbed the grass in front of me, and I was almost crushed to death —Yep, these were all in my imagination. Like most children, I spent a lot of time looking at the picture and started making up stories about it. So I always imagine a story and then regard myself as the protagonist of the story. But it's inevitable that you will be sleepy if you think too much. I was so exhausted that I dozed off while viewing it for a short time.

I've already learned a lot of lessons, but this is just one. Additionally, I now view learning differently as a result of this experience. I am aware that the greatest way to learn is to choose a subject that interests you. Additionally, learning will be more effective if you have someone to give suggestions. Before this, I was unsure of how I would catch up to my classmate.

Have you ever developed a passion for math? Although it sounds strange, that is what actually happened to me. I always spend an additional hour or two in math during the last class during that time. I'm asking for homework assistance in a conversation with my math teacher. When he observed me lingering after class, my severe teacher would always leave me with a packet of arithmetic worksheets. But it was clear that he wanted me to improve. Despite being fairly severe in class, he is very cordial outside of it. And every time we finish part of our homework, he will let us relax for a while. He would engage in conversation with us after playing games with us to hear what we thought. This might be the driving force behind my interest in maths. But in general, We learned things that were challenging in math. Therefore, all we do is repeat the same questions for practice. We couldn't do it quickly until then. There were a

few occasions when the teacher would only offer a small hint in of the solution while we were struggling with a difficulty. We were able to think so much more as a result, although I always take more time than other people. He would therefore always check to see if I understood. He not just help us with math, he helps with every subject. This helped me in my other subject as well. Nevertheless, it doesn't affect my love for mathematics. I usually felt confused before him since I was aware of how slowly I picked up new information. He told me that everyone has different skills. Some people learn something faster, but others need to spend some time, but they will definitely have their own shining place. And this definitely motivated me to be more consistent on learning things he thought. It is very rare to have a teacher that can drive you to learn. It just makes everything much easier for you.

After all that was said, your destiny is in your own hands. Anything is possible if you put in the effort. Everyone has different learning experience, and everyone has different preferences. But as long as we put the road on the right path, everyone can do a good job.

Unit 2

Research questions: how does poverty affect a child's mental and physical development?

As an issue that has been present for many years, one of the many issues that people should be worried about is the lives of impoverished families, which would lead them to have limited access to many things. Unlike most other families, Children from low-income homes would have to work harder than others to obtain something that others take for granted. As a result, this question may be crucial for individuals to be aware of. People don't typically pay the poor child more attention than others, whether it's at school or at work, which is why I became

interested in this subject. I don't think they should get extra assistance or anything; I simply wish there were more chances for folks who are similar to them. Furthermore, I find it intriguing to understand the distinctions between families with typical incomes and those with low incomes. As I began my study, I was interested in learning more about how children in low-income families' mental and physical health may grow as well as potential problems. My initial assumption on this subject is that the sole distinction would be that they might enter maturity earlier than other children of similar ages. However, there are more details than I anticipated.

Work Cited

Murphey, David, and Zakia Redd. "5 Ways Poverty Harms Children." *Child Trends*, 8 January 2014, <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/5-ways-poverty-harms-children>. Accessed 2 November 2022.

Over time, poverty has been a main issue for a very long period. The government had tried to decrease the rate of poverty over the country, but it did not come out as well as it is. As poverty goes on, people, childrens' all get affected by it and it causes enormous amounts of problems. In 1964, the poverty rate of children was 23 percent, which means that around 23 percent of children over the country are suffering and trying their best even to survive. Additionally, if we only count blacks and Hispanic, the rate pops up into around 39 and 34 percent, which is almost half. Poverty could bring up many mental or brain problems to a child's development. It could lead them to adulthood faster than other children and shortened their life expectancy. The next problem would be that when comparing with other peers around the same ages, the gaps will all appear and make them feel inferior and as the time goes on the gaps will become wider and

wider. This could cause most poor children to lose competition with others and eventually to drop out from school. Growing up poor will also cause bad health, bad emotions and even bad behavior, which have a higher chance of receiving some chronic health conditions.

After reading the passage, I learned that there's multiple issues that could happen to children who are in poverty. The information presented above includes a wide range of potential to children's mental and physical health. The information that was mentioned was largely new to me, therefore this really impressed me. In my opinion, poverty is a big disadvantage for a child's mental and physical development, because as it's mentioned in the text it greatly increases the chances of them being in adulthood faster than other peers in the same ages.

“Particularly at its extremes, poverty can negatively affect how the body and mind develop, and can actually alter the fundamental architecture of the brain. Children who experience poverty have an increased likelihood, extending into adulthood, for numerous chronic illnesses, and for a shortened life expectancy.”

Works Cited

Korenman, Sanders, et al. *Long term poverty and child development in the United States: Result from the NLSY*. 1994.

Child's who had been through poverty would be more likely to have different cognitive and socioemotional development from others. Many scientists conducted studies on various families, and the findings revealed that in many low income families their child could score a lower grade in the following experiment. The first test, HOME (Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment-short Form), tested the emotional and cognitive stimulation in the child's environment, in which observes the interaction of the child and their family, and the amount of material or activities available to the child. The VMAB and VMC (McCarthy Scale of Children's Ability: Verbal Memory Subscales), tested the short term memories which the child would repeat after what the interviewer said. The experiment above is only a certain amount of examples that the studies use. The studies put in a lot of effort and did the experiment to many children in families including the low income and the average to high income. And the result shows that most children in low income families would have a lower expectation than a child from high income.

This essay, in my opinion, offers unique techniques to compare children from average and low-income households. Additionally, it excels at distinguishing between the two types of families. They used methods to calculate the gap between IQ and cognitive ability of poor children. I was quite alarmed to learn that a child's exposure to poverty might significantly reduce the likelihood of having a high IQ and healthy cognitive development.

“Our estimates of the mediating effect of the HOME score on the cognitive disadvantages of poor children are lower than estimates of the mediating effect of HOME scores on the IQs of poor children (Goldstein 1990).⁹ The difference between our estimates and those reported by Goldstein

may be due to differences in outcome measures used, or it may result from the fact that the studies she reviewed lacked adequate measures of long-term income. Where controls for long-term income are lacking, the HOME score would measure both aspects of the home environment and the long-term income/needs ratio of the child's family.”

Works Cited

The Hechinger Report. “How trauma and poverty impact a child's brain.” *youtube*, 2018.

In this video, a child's earliest three years is the most important time for the development of the brain, as most of their neural circuits are developed during this time. And after this time, children in poverty would frequently experience everyday pressures that cause the stress hormone to be released. This is owing to the fact that many activities will entail money as a result of family financial problems. In such a situation, a kid's youth is the most crucial stage of their life, and if their family is experiencing financial difficulties, they would need to take more steps than any other youngster. However, a child's life may experience other problems besides wealth inequality. If a child's parent abuses or overstresses the youngster, it is one of the most crucial variables in the child's development. A child's brain circuits will not grow properly if they endure too much stress and have to deal with too many problems. Additionally, memory and learning may be more challenging for some people due to weak circuits.

As I watch the videos, I'm learning that a child's early years are the most crucial for their growth. Where everything around them could affect the way their brain would be growing. Because each person has a unique set of experiences and has grown up in a diverse range of civilizations, this may help to explain why people behaved the way they did.

“Weak circuits can lead to memory and learning problems, behavior issues and can even permanently change the brain’s structure”

In conclusion, In my investigation, I came across a lot of concepts, most of which I find to be really intriguing. In the first sources by Murphey, David, and Zakia. They talked about what are the issues that could occur when a child faces their whole life in poverty, where other people should be worried about the majority of the issues. Furthermore in the second sources by Korenman and sander. They had conducted a great deal of amazing study on those who had studied the topic. It’s about the comparison of IQ and cognitive development of poor childrens, And several methods are employed during the experiment. At last, the third source is from a YouTube video. It’s about how stressors could highly affect a child’s brain circuits development. In addition, A child's first three years are the most important years of their existence. These facts had caused me to reconsider how I regarded those in need of assistance on a regular basis. It astonished me to learn that the impoverished child's childhood might be transformed. These details should be communicated with teachers and parents, because as children get older, the amount of time available to instructors and parents decreases.

Unit 3

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2022d438/2022/12/07/jacky-dong-u3-final-essay/>

Optional Revision of Unit 2

Jacky Dong

Word count: 1448

Eng 1101

U2 Bibliography

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