

Luis Perozo

ENG1101

12/20/2022

Final Reflection & Portfolio

Final Reflection:

My growth in ENG1111 was very little yet very meaningful. Despite my lack of enthusiasm for the subject I still found that it helped me grow in many ways. It helped me to grow as a writer, reader, and researcher in the span of a few months. It was not in huge leaps and bounds, however, it built a better foundation for my skills to improve. Sort of like opening me up to newer possibilities and applicabilities. It woke me up to the fact that English class is very close in nature to programming. Simply knowing this has helped me become a better programmer. It has built on my problem solving skills because it has gifted me a better eye for detail. It has trained me to look at the skills and abilities used by others so that I may then apply it to my own work and add it to the amount of skills in my arsenal. When pertaining to English itself, the skills that I have learned allow me to read for more than just entertainment, they allow me to read and find ideas, hidden meanings, and tools that make the text good. Or presentable to a group of critically thinking scholars. These skills will also help me justify any research that I do in the future or any discoveries that I make in my field in a supportable and grounded manner. I do regret not having been able to comprehend more and take more meaningful lessons from this, however, these skills will help me learn more as I progress with my reading skills.

One thing that really stood out to me through my journey in this class was the sheer amount of sources that we were introduced to. Not only that but the tools that the school provides, which let us access all those sources and more. However what I did not understand is the reasoning behind the accessibility of these sources is limited to only staff and students. I believe that information should be shared with the populace regardless of the repercussions. ENG1111 has only worked to extend that belief, because of the discussions that we participated in. They were held with no judgement or contempt towards differentiating ideas and were not limited to a group of people. Therefore if discussions are not limited, why should the art that is derived from those discussions be limited? This leads me to the last thing that I learned in this class. Speaking out for things that you feel strongly about. This class has given me language and an arsenal of tools for which I may bend or twist that language for the sake of my agenda. They were provided to me so that people of different backgrounds and levels of authority could follow both the words and message propelled by them. So yes, these gifts have improved my writing and reading. I will read Shakespeare and different master pieces while caring and looking for tools or ideas. But most of all I will have a voice, powerful enough, yet clear enough that people will relate and contribute to my ideas. Limited of course by my own quality of thought.

Unit 1

My educational journey

2008. This was the time in my life where I was introduced to a new land and a new language. I was 4 and I had been brought to the United States for the first time. Being in a new place was made hard by the fact that I did not comprehend the language or the culture. From then on I was placed in front of books and dictionaries. It felt as though I was climbing a mountain of endless words, with endless synonyms and antonyms. It was tough learning even a sliver of English, yet as a child I could never give up because I knew what it meant to give up. It meant endless disappointment in the eyes of my father. For a long period of time my father had that look on his face because I simply couldn't grasp the English language.

2010. Everyday for 2 years I was haunted by that same look. It was like looking into the eyes the word disappointment itself. The only time I could relax was when I talked to my mother through video call and played cheap copies of Mario games together. My mother would beat every level of those games and leave me in awe of her abilities. Yet even with all those happy moments I could never escape the despair that I had derived from not being able to learn. I soon became really depressed and I had stopped caring about my education. I had completely given and I had taken it upon myself to let everyone know. I had developed an attitude and behavioural patterns that were very dangerous to both myself and my peers in school.

I began to get into fights at school. One of which got me detention, which I skipped. I had also begun to attend something called a fight club which would take place in the school bathroom after school was over. Lying to my parents had become a daily norm as I was constantly lying about where I was, how I got injured, and why they were getting called by the school. I had begun to not eat whenever my dad presented me with a book. I wouldn't eat at all for days at a time simply torture myself. I would never pay attention at school or do homework of any sort. I had also begun to indulge in dangerous activity and adulterous

activity. One of my neighbours was a girl about my age. She and I had begun to do things children shouldn't do. And in the mix of things I also managed to almost kill myself.

The place that I lived in had a backyard which was used to store items for construction and I decided to kick a piece of sheet metal on a very windy day. I almost lost my leg but I also almost lost my life. My father was about to leave that day and luckily he was still at the exit when I was dragging myself across the floor of the backyard, towards the front yard, screaming for him to help me. I had lost so much blood that I was going in and out of consciousness as I was being taken to the hospital in the back of a taxi. Nearly a week had gone by before I was released from the hospital and my father was left alone by child protective services.

I was very quickly becoming a danger to myself. And everybody knew it, they had all tried to warn me about it. Of course I have been a stubborn child since before coming to New York. I kept doing what was putting my life at risk. Eventually I was put into counselling at school, this had become the beginning of a turning point in my life. Although I didn't believe in it at first, I had slowly begun to go back to being my old self. Yet it still was not enough because my education was still stagnant. I still felt useless and dumb for all the same reasons.

Of course all of this stopped when my mother had finally been able to come to America. As soon as she came into the house she put a book and a dictionary on a table and told me to not get up from there until I understood a sentence. At first I was disappointed and angry that the person who had consoled me all those years was now forcing me into doing what had tortured me. However, as she stood menacingly behind, ready to bang my head against the table, I looked back at her face and realised that she wasn't disappointed. Instead she was worried, I took that chance and read until midnight. When I woke up and lifted my head from in between the pages of the book my mother was still there waiting for me. Unlike my fathers approach to my learning, my mothers worked great because I had begun to

understand what the other kids were saying at my school. Still I was already in 1st grade so I was still below average.

Due to my below average reading abilities I was placed in a special English class that taught people who originally spoke Spanish. This, however, did not last long as I was out of that class by the next year and I could read and write in English and in Spanish by 2nd grade. My mother who had been with me throughout the entire process was ecstatic. The constant reading and writing that I had gone through had finally shown an inkling of a reward. This had propelled me into reading religiously for 3 years after those events and had kept me reading as a hobby for my entire education henceforth. Resulting in my rise from being below average, to reading at the top of my grade in every single phase in my education journey from then on. And it also resulted in a complete 180 in my behavioural patterns, I wasn't completely back to my old self due to certain improvements, however, it was better that way.

## Unit 2

### Censorship

- What is censorship and is it useful? Censorship is the act of silencing or minimising the raw image/message provided by a person, place, or thing. Or the suppression of parts of books, news, etc that aren't politically acceptable or a threat to security. Censoring had been given a separate meaning in the modern word. Which is that anything and anybody with a different political party or opinion will be shut down and silenced. Or harassed until they give up on sharing their opinions. Censorship an introduction to the loss of free speech. It is something that has engraved itself into our society and created

- Where is it seen in action? Censorship is mostly seen in the media.
- Examples of censorship Some modern day examples of it are cancel culture, The banning of Andrew Tate, and the silence when speaking about prescription drugs and their cost.
- Cancel culture It has roots as early as 2010 and has maintained a mainstream appearance since then. Cancel culture is the way that the public takes away the platforms of celebrities, entertainers, and or other media users, based on their political stance, opinions, or social standing. Of course this self assigned power has made those who use it, drunk on it. It has become aligned with multiple different big topics in the modern day discussions. Completely removing discussion from the table and simply making people either align or be shunned by society at large. Many big social media stars have had to suffer that wrath of this ideology, such as Twitch streamer disguised toast, pokimane, Jidion, among many more.

Mishan, Ligaya. "The Long and Tortured History of Cancel Culture (Published 2020)." The New York Times, 3 December 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/03/t-magazine/cancel-culture-history.html>. Accessed 7 November 2022.

- The banning of Andrew Tate First of all, who is Andrew Tate? Andrew Tate is your every day multi millionaire who has been the biggest topic in the media world. He is known for his "Radical ideas and beliefs". He had been branded a misogynist for these beliefs banned off of countless platforms, some which will surprise you. Tate claims to have been banned from Instagram, snapchat, youtube, tiktok, uber, and had his bank accounts frozen. This seems without a doubt extreme and incomprehensible. Social media platforms and other companies can now take away your ability to share your opinion to anyone if you do not align with their beliefs. And despite big media's claims, Andrew Tate is far from being a misogynist and many women and other people have come forward to prove it. I am not saying that I agree with this man and his idea, however, it is incredibly alarming when someone's freedom of speech is inhibited to this extent. Sung, Morgan. "Andrew Tate banned from YouTube, TikTok, Facebook and Instagram." NBC News, 22 August 2022, <https://www.nbcnews.com/pop-culture/viral/andrew-tate-facebook-instagram-ban-meta-rcna43998>. Accessed 7 November 2022. Yes, independent businesses have the right to decide a lot of their inner workings. Corporate companies do not have the right to silence people. Speech is every humans right and going against that means that you go against the government and its laws. Park. (2021). Whose Free Speech? Dissent (New York), 68(3), 42–44. <https://doi.org/10.1353/dss.2021.0079>

Unit 3

Luis Perozo

ENG1101

## PEROZO 1

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and or other media users, based on their political stance, opinions, or social standing. Of course this self assigned power has made those who use it, drunk on it. It has become aligned with multiple different big topics in the modern day discussions. Completely removing discussion from the table and simply making people either align or be shunned by society at large. Many big social media stars have had to suffer that wrath of this ideology, such as Twitch streamer disguised toast, pokimane, Jidion, among many more.

- The banning of Andrew Tate.

First of all, who is Andrew Tate? Andrew Tate is your every day multi millionaire who has been the biggest topic in the media world. He is known for his “Radical ideas and beliefs”. He had been branded a misogynist for these beliefs banned off of countless platforms, some which will surprise you. Tate claims to have been banned from Instagram, snapchat, youtube, tiktok, uber, and had his bank accounts frozen. This seems without a doubt extreme and incomprehensible. Social media platforms and other companies can now take away your ability to share your opinion to anyone if you do not align with their beliefs. And despite big media’s claims, Andrew Tate is far from being a misogynist and many women and other people have come forward to prove it. I am not saying that I agree with this man and his idea, however, it is incredibly alarming when someone's freedom of speech is inhibited to this extent. You can catch an article about this which was done by NBC News on November 7th. Sung, Morgan.

Why has a lot of the younger generation been made to follow this ideal?

Yes, independent businesses have the right to decide a lot of their inner workings. Corporate companies do not have the right to silence people. Speech is every human’s right and going against that means that you go against the government and its laws. This can be seen in an essay called Whose Free Speech by park.

The last question I would like to ask you all is, Should media companies be held responsible for censorship?

### U3 Reflection

Censorship is a branch of silence that is purported by modern day stages and their hosts. Throughout the duration of the 2000’s and the 2010s censorship has integrated itself further into our culture and societal bylaws through the help of companies and their widely used platforms. It is the virus that hides in the shadows of other viruses. People have yet to realise the effect that this silence commits, but multiple articles have written about it and its effect, not only on adolescent lives but on society as a whole. I chose a Ted talk script as my way of purporting my thoughts on the silence that society and media platforms want us to adopt. I chose this genre of writing because it allows me to speak freely and with my own thoughts. Less decorated and sugar coated than most other methods of sharing information. Furthermore, it is more easily understood by my audience, those of which are adolescents. They require conversation so that they can be let to think for themselves and not just accept ideas as they are taught and told. They need to engage so that they can react to the realities that are shown to them. Adolescents are naive and will only understand things if they are presented by their phone screens and media platforms. Therefore, Ted

talks which are typically a conversation between a speaker and an audience which is broadcasted on many platforms, fits the bill. Yes I can simply write to adults, but they are either not a part of the “conversations being held” or are simply too far gone to be able to take in and understand something else. Something other than the ideas that have been engrained already by the companies and their stages. No amount of talking will make an adult forget the ideas which they are plastered with from a young age. Just like there is no amount of time that could make an animal forget its survival instinct. Humans are those very animals and the new way to survive is to receive the programming that companies are trying to make popular. Or programming that has already been made popular. In order to battle that I chose a Ted talk script. It has the conversation that can be used to persuade or awaken people to the lies presented by media companies and the people which use similar methods as them.