

Ridwan Chowdhury

ENG1101

12/18/22

Final Reflection & Portfolio

Final Reflection

Maturing as a writer, reader, and researcher is what I have accomplished in this semester, and I can confidently say that my peers agree with my opinion. The high school curriculum for English classes was very linear even from grades nine to twelve one would think that as you move on, they would see change such was not the case. Instead, it was just a cycle of read a book, report on it, or write a research paper on the provided topic. There was no freedom in the one class one would think they can write or read whatever. Entering college, I felt that English all would be the same as my high school experience however, I would be proved wrong as the course urged me to always give my two cents on any topic there was no right or wrong every class was a discussion on how we can learn off other peers' opinions. Furthermore, I would like to display how Professor Penner gave us the chance to read materials and let us choose on what we should do with it. In this I found the freedom I previously mentioned, the freedom to do what I want and share my thoughts no matter how wrong or right as the only criticism could be my writing style. I found myself having more fun writing tedious essays and when I see my writing I felt as if my writing had changed. I was more adept at constructing thorough and concise paragraphs in which I wanted my thoughts to be clear and very understandable to my audience. This also reflected my reading skills as the more I knew how to write this would mirror on how well I can understand a reading. For example, in unit one we did a reading of Plato a text in which my comprehension of it was very vague but as time progress writing stellar essays complimented by Professor Penner, such text was easy as a children's book. This relationship on how my writing and reading have been proving is mostly credited to once more the freedom I was given. I learned that the ability to expand your writing and reading skills come solely from the interest of what I am writing. If I were enjoying learning more about the topic, I am to create a essay on, my writing matches that enthusiasm constructing complex sentences in which I can tell my interest is on full display. Overall, my reading and writing skills has been drastically improved upon which was caused by motivation and intrigue I find in what I read this evolution in my skills shows me that I am capable of change as long as I put my mind towards it with no strings attached. My writing skills reinforce the fact that I do not write because I have to rather, I want to write on my interests. My ever-growing mastery on my skills translate on to my other classes as ever since I found myself thoroughly enjoying reading pieces in ENG1101 this enjoyment would transform to motivation allowing me to enjoy my other classes. For instance, during unit 1 on where we would write an education narrative, I took to heart the examples given

to us especially Malcom X's, I was moved by his story and my work reflected his experiences. However, when I was writing my education narrative in a very enthusiastic mood I came to a pause and asked myself why am I writing this? The answer was simple it was a reminder, "you become more apparent in yourself, and your thoughts think of the future you are making with the education you are to receive." Plain and simple quoting my own work reflected on how I far I came as a writer to the point where my skills transfer to other classes where my work ethic is thorough as my writing. My educational narrative is a mirror and a measure as to where I have reached as a writer and reader. The work I have done in unit 2 was my cocoon to become what I am now the newfound freedom of writing about what I want allowed me to construct my thoughts into complex short summaries. My emergence came in unit 3 where I was the one to determine how I can portray my thoughts through multimodal genres this was my personal test as seen, "I truly think this podcast format is best choice overall even if its exhausting options of writing it lets me speak in a unrestrained tone which serves one purpose to inform the taxpayers about my thoughts and findings all while they get more curious as me creating a cycle of research on this topic." I believe my writing and reading skills will continue to evolve and I thank this class for this as the influence it had on me was indescribable. The work I did here was from my motivation which allowed me to take on my other dreadful classes. Thank you, Professor Penner, for allowing us to change into someone who can appreciate the work we do and have fun with it.

Unit 1 :

On that dreaded window seat of the plane leaving for my real home I was suddenly flashed by the sun's bright light, forcing me into a moment of blindness, but to me, it was a moment of stillness. In that moment it occurred to me how I had left my mom because of my selfishness leaving her all by her lonesome losing myself in these depreciating thoughts of mine I had been lost to time as I recalled my life before getting on this new journey of despair. When I turned two my parents had a mutual decision of getting a divorce and of course, being focused on being a child I did not know what that decision would entail for my future but did know that playing with the cars in my head would give me a moment's joy. Fast forward 3 months later I am on a one-way flight to Bangladesh, the country where my parents were born and left for a better future ironically the same country where my future would take place, then again no one's future is set rather we pave it. Looking back that flight with my mother was one of the few moments where I found my head empty as the skies outside the window of the plane. It has been four years since I left New York, my home, behind to live with my mom in the small yet vibrant village of Shunamgonj, Bangladesh. Those four years were fun, but I always felt something missing however, I was not too focused on that I was focused on the fact that I would be attending school! Even though I had left New York I still retained my English speaking skills it was honed even further with the help of my mom I must admit that speaking English garnered many

unwanted eyes upon me, and feeling uncomfortable I would always run to my mom. My mom was my rock I honestly did not see my life without her. Enough about that at that time I was getting ready for my first semester of primary school in a very excited state of mind, but as my mom smiled at me, I felt a sudden pang in my heart as I noticed a hint of sorrow in that smile of hers. However, even after acknowledging that sadness of hers, I chose to ignore it and decided to prep my bag to meet the school's headmaster to discuss tuition and the academic rigor of the grade I was to be in. After this brief recollection of what is to be done my mom and I head out of our house to hail a rickshaw to the school, my mom had negotiated the fare of our trip to the cyclist in which he had to accept to carry on his job. Whenever she had done this, I always saw my mom as a strong woman who had always gotten what she wanted, feeling inspired I smile, but that smile would surely fade away. The rickshaw had come to a halt in front of the school gates in which my mind was in a psychedelic trance unable to believe that I was going to school. My mom had led me to the principal's office the very room where I would receive one of the worst news in my childhood. The principal, Mr. Alamgir had greeted us in a very condescending tone I did not realize this at that moment, but I was scared and nervous and my mom had reciprocated the same feelings as mine. After the very brief salutations he had spoken in Bangla, "Mrs. Chowdhury, your son can be the brightest boy in his grade, but what good is that if you are poor? We have standards we must meet, and you currently do not so let us keep this discussion short." My mom had just kept her head down as she was a criminal for committing a theft, a theft she would later describe as my future. However, I just stared angrily at this demon of ego and said in English, "you are dumb, and you smell!" he felt offended, but he had no idea what I said yet these words did not extinguish my childly greed and rage. After what had occurred, I was silent as was my mom I vaguely remember the only time she spoke in that time was to hail a rickshaw cyclist even as we got seated at our ride, she dared not utter a single word. However, the seething rage in me clouded my judgment in trying to understand so I kept my distance. As fate would have it the next few days would be even worse as I was to give a decision of either staying with my mom or my father; I have not seen him in so long to the point I cannot recall his face. The day I was so perturbed about had come to pass, in that small and hot living room of ours my dad's lawyer had asked me as beads of sweat flowed down his cheek, "My dear boy, you can stay here with your mom or go back with your dad, go back to the place where you spent your life, and the future you are to have there." Those words had gone in one ear and went out the other I was too focused on that small drop of sweat hitting his trousers, but I more or less understood what was said to me. Once again I was stuck in this moment of stillness with the realization that my mom was a boulder weighing down on me as harsh as it sounds so I selfishly left my mother. Her sorrowful smile struck me as she heard my decision to leave her I had lost my mind trying to explain to her that I wanted to become so smart that no one would ever look down on me and make my mom the "Mother of the smartest man alive," Alas my wails was of no avail to her I desperately wanted to pursue education, expand my knowledge, and have various experiences with my newfound intelligence, this was the cost of my greed; it wasn't for a seven year-old to make such choice. However, I already made my choice, and right after I found myself in that plane window seat going back to that moment of stillness. My choice was harsh but I couldn't allow myself to writhe in guilt this was of course not the realization of a seven-year-old but of the person I am today. When it comes to seeking to better oneself there are no

such things as bad decisions it is only the momentarily feeling of weakness and, in that weakness, one finds themselves in this moment of stillness. Time freezes, you become more apparent in yourself and your thoughts think of the future you are making with the education you are to receive.

Unit 2:

Introduction: Have you ever wondered why even in a free country we have to pay for said freedom? The actions we take with our money is to be under government watch and in turn you have to pay them for this “security” it ensures you. Many people consider taxation as theft or the cost-of-living life, any citizen in any country pays income, property, or business tax to do things we consider as a basic human right. The Boston tea party was one the major reasons why the revolution war started, the residents were being taxed without no representation being forced to pay for basic needs with high and unnecessary tax, Let me explain it to the modern audience a but better, want to start a business you must show stable income and pay more than thirty percent to the government, now one starts thinking about “Hey why are we PAYING for the right of business when it is a free country,” oh, all of a sudden you want to buy a house well do you have the ability to pay another ten percent to the government? No? too bad. The common knowledge that taxes sustain our needs as a country and gives the government more funds to create more fiscal and monetary policy for economic encouragement and I personally agree with this but there are too many cases where these taxes are burdens to the average citizen. This way of thinking led me to question if taxes ae the cost of freedom, in our economy we buy from an entity expecting service, but if we view freedom in this perspective is one truly free? In my thoughts I pondered if such was the case and I hope to see the many points of views on this topic. This topic represents the concern of the people and where their money goes towards to in turn affecting the economy. Citation 1: “Taxation, Forced Labor, and Theft: Why Taxation is “On a Par” with Forced Labor” Moore, Adam D. “Taxation, Forced Labor, and Theft: Why Taxation Is ‘on a Par’ with Forced Labor.” *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 59, no. 3, 2020, pp. 362–385., <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12395>. (“EBSCOhost Research Platform: EBSCO.” EBSCO Information Services, Inc. | [Www.ebsco.com](http://www.ebsco.com), <https://www.ebsco.com/products/ebscohost-research-platform>.) Ridwan 2 Summary: Taxation is on par with forced labor which is akin to slavery, a strong take on the methodology of taxes this journal pushes the socialist redistributive liberalism agenda in which if the people are to work to pay for taxes and cannot sustain a life without doing so in essence they are slaves. The author Moore continued this idea from Robert Nozick in which he sustained the same idea, Moore discussed as to how the most forms of taxation utilized by modern redistributive democracies are immoral. This journal stands more in the philosophy of economy rather than the statistics or analysis. For example, Moore used the “what if” case of where stranded people on a island enforced a tax system for the less fortunate, those who are doing most of the work for food or shelter feel robbed as their efforts are being spent on those who do not contribute anything. Furthermore, in the economy the labor force consists of the employed and the unemployment,

those who are employed are active workers responsible for economic growth however, those who are unemployed are actively looking for work, however, they receive support from the government in which the taxpayers (workers) fund. Moore states that even in this policy these workers feel robbed and hateful because they are paying for those who cannot fend for themselves. This shows the morality of taxpayers they are being forced to be responsible for things they cannot afford. Reflection: Although this is a derivative of the idea, but it still stands as to how taxation is robbery which in turn is the cost of our freedom. The morality of the taxpayers defines the consensus thoughts as to how they feel about tax which is understandable. This is by no means a criticism for the American policy on taxes but what most people pay goes to superficial projects on foreign countries or increasing militarization in these peaceful times. I agree with Moore in his theory of morality having to do part with how people view taxes which is best showcased by his many examples like the Violinist . Quotation: 1) “Perhaps in a case like this, the wrongness of the forced tax would be sufficiently outweighed by the benefit. But this is not the way tax systems work. In the U.S. and most countries, vast sums are wasted, spent on frivolous projects, given to foreign states, or used to fund military actions to support a vacuously broad notion of “national interest.” (Moore) 2) “Robert Nozick famously claimed, “taxation of earnings is on a par with forced labor.” If we assume that forced labor is morally objectionable, something akin to slavery, then Nozick’s claim about taxation challenged the very heart of socialist redistributive liberalism.” (Moore) Ridwan 3 Citation 2: Tame, Chris R. Taxation Is Theft - Idp.ticadine.com. <https://idp.ticadine.com/docs/polin044.pdf>. Summary: The author analyzes the state of taxation and why the government created this policy along with the fact on who profits and who loses. Tame briefly discussed the idea of economic freedom where people of all incomes are free to implore upon their choices of a better opportunity for work or business; this better opportunity, in other words is higher income. Taxation is the contradiction to this freedom according to Tame where people are being forced to pay more money they do not have. For example, Tame takes into account the National Health Service in which your care is determined by the amount of taxes, this policy is mainly known as “free services” this is where the contradiction takes place those who are low-income taxpayers receive less medical care in contrast to others who pay more in taxes. In other words, the economic freedom is being interfered by fiscal policies in which the livelihood is determined by the government. Furthermore, he acknowledged the wealthier benefit from no taxes in their businesses however, he showcased how these wealthy people are taxed upon their personal property or wealth; this is best known as a avoidance care. In addition, Tame mentioned the likes of the Rockefellers who were taxed like the average salary man despite his immense wealth, income tax can be up to 37% yet they paid way more less. Reflection: In first glance one can immediately tell the Authors political stance, a liberal and one who believes in the true economic freedom with no government interference. These left-wing ideas are clearly discussed to the audience in my opinion this would be perfect to those who believe in socialism rather than capitalism. Although I truly do not agree with most ideas he was speaking on as they were very radical however, I can agree with some of the points expressed such as the inequality of income in which the taxpayers have to be limited with their income. This was clearly stated regarding the free services tax payers are granted in which their care is derived from their income and tax yields. Quotation: “The shoddiness of state services like the National Health Service is an inevitable consequence of the

political, economic and social forces embodied in them. Once the dignity of the cash nexus is removed between buyer and seller - patient and doctor - then the former gets treated as a bothersome supplicant by the latter. This is exacerbated by the fact that in the absence of the cash nexus the middle-class doctor tends to misunderstand or be contemptuous of his "lower-class" patients. Middle-class patients are generally treated better, and have the requisite skills to manipulate the system for their own ends" Ridwan 4 Citation 3: Youtube, Youtube, 11 Nov. 2018, <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1rcqzN8WRq>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2022 Summary: Multimodal videos consists of podcasts or interviews and this is a podcast between Ben Shapiro and John Stossel both of whom are renowned for their political viewpoints. This is a discussion on what basis does the government use tax to fund themselves and to what point can they deem goods and services taxable. For example, Shapiro briefly asks the question, "until what point does taxation become theft" he then gives his basis on why this question was formed such as property taxes for homes. Shapiro stated the housing crisis and that the people could not afford it solely due to the high prices including how much one would pay in taxes. However, as a counter Stossel explained how taxation serves its purpose by providing what the people need such as protection to which Shapiro disproves of it saying we do not need militarization in this day and age. Furthermore, Shapiro speaks on how government taxes private sectors among having similar government companies. The disparity between UPS and USPS both are mailing companies only difference is the latter being a government funded in which they receive no taxation but the former does even though they are the same services. Reflection. This discussion between Shapiro and Stossel just showcases how two separate ends of a spectrum can come to a pseudo agreement on which taxation is needed but at the same time so suppressing. I agree with both speakers on their cohesive statements that which were extremely well thought out along with the fact these are statements that can be reinforced through actual data. Those words spoken was not one that had no substance but one that was curious and understanding similar to my thoughts on this topic. Multimodal sources such as this is a great example of how ideas can be shared among the masses and it feels more real as one is hearing or watching someone say the information they want to know. Conclusion: Overall, the question as to whether taxation is the cost of freedom has not been answered as there are too many overlapping opinions from left and right political stances however, it has been most agreed that these tax policies are too harsh on the average citizen in which their livelihood is determined by how much they pay taxes. Even amongst this uneasiness in one's livelihood they do not understand where this money goes towards too which leads to aggression Ridwan 5 against taxation. The populace expects their money to go towards to society, to the country to promote growth in the economy such as the labor force, taxable income leads to more funds to the government to reimburse businesses to create more job opportunities. However, that is not the case as the government takes a stance in which they will not interfere with firms and consumers even though they are taking a cut from that transaction. Rather this money goes towards the military expansion (not relief to veterans) in these peaceful times furthermore, the populace grows more aggravated as their money goes to foreign nations not to them, as they want a better quality of life. In America there is a failing healthcare and education system which the government is responsible for and citizens are upset because this is where their money is supposed to go towards. This string of events caused more and more ideologies to oppose taxation where the people lose and the government just watches as seen in the sources

above. One must consider that even among the aggression against taxation there is morality, whether a worker pays for those of the less fortunate and even this moral compass is slowly rusting as they realize they are not responsible for the less fortunate. The taxpayer is being burdened to pay for things they do not know and in turn they receive lesser quality of life due to rash government spending. This amalgamation of worry and aggression led to these radical ideas that citizens feel as if they were being robbed or paying for the right of freedom, and this freedom is the lesser version of what they hoped for; their expectation ruined. Concluding this question, I have learned as to how the economy can lead to transgressions to those who uphold, how inequality is the root source of why so many people view taxation so negatively the populace

Unit 3:

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2022d438/2022/12/07/ridwan-chowdhury-u3-multimodal-project-and-reflection/>