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ENG 1101

Final Reflection

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My Final Reflection

Going into college I expected to be stressed out all the time and always have assignment after assignment but, it was actually fun. Being in a new environment compared to the k-12 system felt a little weird but I got used to it and tried new things I wouldn't normally do. The classes themselves also feel like I'm genuinely learning as opposed to being forced to go to classes. I openly interact and learn with others in these classes which add to the whole experience. One of the biggest examples is English, which was one of my weaker classes in high school. I never liked English as I hated the repetitiveness of it, read 5 chapters and then write a report, it would get boring quick, and I found myself exhausted by it which usually ended with me finding cheap way-outs. I've mentioned this in an earlier writing, "I just didn't have the energy to keep up with research papers or essays of that sort." Meza (1). I'd become discouraged to write and just put up whatever. However, with this college English class, I never felt that way. I learned that I like writing and I can go on and on with it because I enjoyed researching my very own topic. I also found out that reading is a method that makes you see literature in a new light. Reading like a writer and trying to understand the words chosen by an author makes it more interesting. Realizing both these things helped me mature as both a reader and a writer. Last year if you told me that I genuinely wrote 1000-2000 words for an

assignment I'd tell you that you're lying. I used to hate writing and found myself distracted after every paragraph, however, one of the things brought up in class was shitty first drafts. I've done drafts all my life but never understood the point of them until in college when we read "Shitty first drafts" by Lamott. In there she said, "Start by getting something – anything – down on paper" (2). This was a huge help in my writing style as before I'd try to perfect it from the start and if I didn't have anything then I'd just lie. When it comes to reading, the biggest development I've seen is annotating. My teachers told me to annotate before and have at least one post-it per page, but I found it to be useless and didn't like reading that way. However, when doing research, I found it helpful to have annotations on the side. I learned this in my U2 writing piece, "Although a short section it provides important information on who exactly is being affected by the school to prison pipeline and other underlying reasons for students being pushed into the school to prison pipeline. Many if not all of these students don't have the opportunity to decide where they want to attend to, so when they're automatically placed into a school that is underfunded they're mistreated." Meza (5). Normally I wouldn't be able to write like this in one go and this was a collection of multiple thoughts and analysis in my reading. Since I'm dealing with large texts it can be easy to get lost in the reading so having those notes helped me. This class was a good entry to college as I learned how to access the library and do my citations for future classes. I also tutor students at my job so I now have a better understanding of writing that I could pass on to them. Even outside of education, I can use what I learned from this class for jobs through cover letters. Throughout the semester I personally feel that my writing has improved and that I could be proud of it and even wrote a whole project regarding a civil issue. "you'll be creating a

more inclusive school environment that not only allows students to thrive and succeed but also prevents them from just becoming a statistic.” Meza (2). Knowing that I was able to write about an issue makes me realize just how powerful writing could be when you’re writing about a topic you take seriously and want to learn.

UNIT 1:

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2023d442tuth215pm/2023/10/20/joseph-meza-u1-writing-assignment/>

UNIT 2:

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2023d442tuth215pm/2023/11/10/joseph-meza-u2-reflective-annotated-bibliography/>

UNIT 3:

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2023d442tuth215pm/2023/12/07/joseph-meza-u3-writing-assignment/>