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Final Reflection Draft

This semester was quite hectic for me. It was very challenging to handle two jobs and attend school full time. This course was the most difficult for me because writing is not one of my strengths. Through this course I have confirmed that I am still very weak at comprehending texts and writing essays. However, I would say that I have improved a lot. I have a better attention span when I am reading so it has gotten easier for me to understand what I am reading. The steps I have taken to ensure my reading and writing skills are better is by ensuring I am in a stable environment.

At home, it is very chaotic because I have a big and loud family. So, I go to a library when I need to get English assignments done. This class has taught me how to organize my thoughts and write a paper step by step to ensure that I am covering all aspects required for the paper. This gave me a clear perspective on what I am supposed to write about. Before, it used to take me a long time to brainstorm ideas and incorporate my thoughts into words. Every time I would go over my assignments, I would find so many silly mistakes. That made me realize that I write my papers impulsively. I need to be more patient. I also did not know how to use the MLA format correctly. I used to think that it was the font "Arial" and the word size "10". Also, I did not know how to cite quotes the correct way. In the past I have had formatting issues with my work because I did not know how to do so on a college level, causing me to lose points. I have also had other issues such as a poor vocabulary, as well as difficulty understanding the meaning of complex words. I have improved that by reading books whenever I can. I hope to expand on my knowledge in the future.

The biggest challenge for me was to get the work done. It was very difficult for me to always attend the class, even though it was held once a week. I had trouble following instructions because it's difficult for me to comprehend words, and lots of text at once. The website was one of my biggest issues. I personally prefer Blackboard over Openlab because it is easier to navigate. If I could change one thing in this class then that would be removing Openlab as a source for submitting documents. The entire process of submitting assignments, finding assignments was a big challenge, as it was not organized at all. The blog format was not helpful.

One thing I liked about this class is that it was very interactive. I got to learn a lot about my peers as there was a lot of group work during class. We got to discuss our opinions, and we got to be vocal about our needs. Also, getting in touch with the professor was easy. It's very important for students to have a healthy relationship with the professor. Both parties need to be understanding, and the professor is definitely understanding.

For incoming students next semester, my advice would be to try to get everything done on time so that it does not get overwhelming in the end. I would also let them know that it's important to attend class. I have learned all of these from my mistakes so I would not want someone else to suffer like me. I had a good time this semester because the Professor was very forgiving and understanding. I would highly recommend this class.