

Yaire Castillo

ENG1121

13 November 2020

Word Count:1,324

### Final Reflection

As an 18 year old entering college during a pandemic I was nervous and scared. Many of my friends dropped out because they just could not do online learning. I was scared to drop out because I did not want to disappoint my family. In the beginning I was having such a hard time with my classes. I was not used to looking at a syllabus or even attending all of my classes online. Many textbooks that I needed did not even get here on time, resulting in a bad grade for my midterm exam. Last year, when I was a senior in High school I was taking AP English composition and Language. I was getting ready to take the exam in school until the outbreak of Covid-19. Taking the exam online was nerve wracking because at any moment anything could have gone wrong, like my Wi-Fi not working. Thankfully, I passed it. Which is why I am taking this class.

Taking this class was really exciting for me because I have always loved English class. I love everything about it. From how we can use it in our everyday lives to learning different things like discourse communities, annotated bibliographies, multimodal projects and so much more! As a reader I have always been the type to read between the lines. I love to read things more than twice to see if there is something that I missed in the first reading. But I would also be the type of reader to just give up if I could not understand what the author was trying to say. If I stumbled upon words I did not know I would not look them up to understand what they meant causing me to remain confused. But throughout this whole semester I learned something new

about myself as a reader. When I am determined to understand the author's message I do anything to understand it, even if that means that I have to take longer in just reading it. I remember when we had to read the dedicatory letter that Mary Wollstonecraft wrote for homework and I was having such a hard time with it. I was already upset that I was not understanding what her message was and many of my classmates were. So what did I do? I started reading it again, annotated it and asked myself out loud what she was trying to say. And that actually helped, that's when I realized that I had transformed to a better reader who would not give up when the reading becomes too hard to understand. I like to think that if you can get through the reading of Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes, you can get through any reading.

When I was little I wanted to be a writer. I wanted to publish many books and be able to produce a movie for one of my books. Time went by and that phase never really left me. Throughout time, many people started getting to my head saying, "go for a more realistic job" or even "you are going to starve to death if you become a writer." It was not until I met my AP English teacher, Gregory Castro who really impacted my life. Who would make us write essays everyday as punishment. One time, we even had to write a full blown essay in less than 30 minutes. At first, I was really annoyed and upset because I did not think it was fair but then I realized that what he was doing was actually helpful. He was teaching us how to think quickly on our feet and test how fast we could write in such little time. He had one policy, "If I can not get through your introduction without falling asleep I am not reading the rest of your essay." That taught me to write in a way that will catch my readers attention. He would always tell me that I am a good writer but that I tend to hold back causing me to not show my potential as a writer. So when I entered City Tech, I promised myself that I would never hold back. In the beginning I was scared to talk about controversial topics but then I realized that it was okay to do that. Time

flew by and kept on writing about topics that were important for me and that I believed needed attention. I wrote about how women are treated poorly in immigration detention centers and how they are not treated the same as men. As a writer, I grew up and realized that sometimes you need to get out of your comfort zone and write about things that you believe in, even if that means stepping on people's beliefs.

As a scholar I have always been the type to go above and beyond for what is being asked from me. But with the outbreak of Covid-19 I was truly hit hard. I did not have the motivation to do homework. It was not until I had a reality check and realized that I needed to get through this, especially since things don't always go as planned. I would submit my work before the deadline and get ready for next week's work. At times my Wi-Fi would fail me, leaving me with days of no internet. My laptop stopped working and I was never able to get one from the school because I would be busy in all the days they were available. I learned that I am a very determined and hardworking scholar. Whenever I needed help or was confused about anything, I would ask for help. I would always try my best in all my homeworks hoping to get a good grade on it. I will be able to use my knowledge in college because in all my classes I have to write papers. I know how to use proper grammar and how to formally write. Not only that but I'll also be able to use my knowledge in my community by educating others. If they ever need help writing a paper or need me to edit it then I will do that.

It is no secret that online learning is extremely hard for people. From the beginning to the very end of the semester I have always completed my homework. And if I am being honest, I loved all my assignments because it was something I was not used to. I was excited to be exposed to it and learn new things. Before this class I did not know what multimodal projects were. And that is what I loved about this class, that it taught you new things. Some notable

lessons that have stuck with me after completing assignments is how important it is to write about things that you are passionate about. When writing, the genre has never changed. It has always been about civil rights. Before starting my Unit 3 assignment I knew that I wanted to write about something that mattered and show it in a way that others would see it and see how important it is.

Now that the semester is coming to an end I am having so many mixed emotions about it. I am beyond proud of myself for getting through this semester and grateful that I was able to take this class. Surprisingly, I am sad that the semester is about to finish because even with all the reading, writing and deadlines I had a lot of fun. I had so much adrenaline rushing through my body because every week there was something new. With this final reflection I was able to notice how much I have changed. I am not the same scholar, reader and writer I was when the semester first began. I think that doing final reflections are necessary because you are able to see your progress and see how much you have overcome.

Final Portfolio:

I decided to revise Unit 2 and Unit 3. For Unit 3 I changed it to more slides so it would not be too crowded in one slide and for Unit 2 I change a source and the MLA citation form.