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ENG 1121

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Who would've thought this would be the most unique semester ever? I do not think anybody will ever experience another semester like this one ever again. Coming into this semester if someone told me I was going to have class at home because of a pandemic I would have never believed them. Then again it is not the worst thing in the world because this semester is definitely a semester I will never forget. I definitely see myself telling my kids about this whole experience when I get older.

Beginning the semester, I was optimistic mostly because it is my second to last semester before I achieve my associates degree in Computer Information Systems. Also I was very optimistic because I just came out of my first English class last semester and I did really good in that class. I also have a great relationship with her prior to the semester. She has helped me excel the level of my writing a lot. That class was also my favorite class of the semester because there was a lot of interaction in that class and it made me speak out more and speak my mind as well as represent what I think in my writing. So unfortunately for me I couldn't use my connections for this class because of online classes. However, coming into this class I was ready to have a repeat of my previous semester. During the first two weeks I was a little nervous even though I knew a couple people in the class I was not yet comfortable with the surroundings to start speaking up but during the third week I started participating more and started showing a little

personality. Also in the beginning of the semester I enjoyed reading the texts you gave us on the train. I enjoyed it so much that I started taking a different route when going to classes because it felt more natural and comforting when I'm reading our texts in that setting. I also learned a lot from those texts. I had no idea what a discourse community was before this class and the first text we read. I never heard of that term in my life, then after reading the text and our lesson I realized how much discourse communities I can put myself in.

My favorite assignment would have to be the unit 1 writing assignment. I had the most fun with that assignment because I was able to choose what I wanted to research and it related to my everyday life. In the essay I said, "Luckily for me I am associated with YouTubers everyday whereas I'm a freelance social media designer, I make things from YouTube thumbnails, banners, profile pictures, etc. Therefore, I get to work around YouTubers every day and understand the mindset of a YouTuber." Since I was a designer I was able to interview some of the clients I work with and it was really fun to me the fact that I was able to use what I do on the side for an assignment. I also put a lot into the assignment even though it was 1000 words I was able to write so much more than that. This leads me to comparing my work and mind in the beginning of the semester vs now. I feel like I have become so much better at reading prior to the semester. I remember watching a TED talk you showed us about the slow reader. That video changed my aspect on reading. Usually I would just read through articles fast and not really take in how the author is trying to let me feel. So I have started slowing things down to try and take in how the author wants the reader to feel, mostly why I changed my route when I am reading and on my way to class. It changes a lot because then I am able to write more on the article because then I would have completely understood what the author is trying to portray.

One thing I liked about this class was the peer reviews. Before in my last English class I already knew everyone in the class so peer reviews are much different than how it is now. So with this class I was able to make some new friends from the peer reviews. I also feel like they gave me pretty in depth reviews with the work that I gave to be reviewed. It really helped improve my writing which helped me get a good grade for the unit 1 writing assignment. Especially with my conclusion, before I was usually not that good at writing conclusions mostly because I wouldn't know what to write so I would just write two or three sentences reiterating my introduction. But since the peer review I received constructive criticism on how to make my conclusions better. To prove here is one of my old conclusions "In conclusion, stereotypes alter the way administrators view minority students" compared to my unit 1 assignment conclusion after the peer review. "In conclusion, I found it fascinating how a community with such toxic player bases can have a completely different vibe when it comes to the discourse community of the YouTube side." I feel like I am now able to make better quality conclusions because of my peer reviews the ones I make now are more professional in my opinion. Moving on to during online classes. I still remember the last day of class I had. It was a Wednesday so I had only Math and CST. It was a regular day, I went to my teacher assistant job at my high school after classes then later than day I checked my email and I saw that CUNY was looking to close schools because of the virus. Honestly I was shocked but I did not think too much of it. At the moment I was a little happy because of the flexibility I would have with waking up in the mornings. Usually on Monday's I would have to wake up at 5 am for classes so now I'd be able to wake up around 5 minutes before class and everything would be fine. But I also did not think it would last for the whole semester I thought it would only be for a month and I did not know it would have such a huge impact on classes. I feel like for me this class took biggest hit with this

whole situation since the class is mostly interactive based, every day we interact with each other and have topic related conversations in class so with the switch that changed. Personally I like that the most about my English classes where I do not have to sit and listen to my professor talk in a lecture for an hour and a half and then leave, instead we get to interact with each other and have meaningful conversations. I feel like the quality of learning is much higher like that. With this switch everything was now online and we had to do basically everything on our own and truly right now I would give anything to sit in a class for an hour and a half listening to a lecture than sitting on my bed with my computer. Also with the fact that this class was not able to have a zoom class or some type of online meeting it just felt weird to me and I was not able to keep up with everything and when that happens everything starts to pile up. However, it is not only bad because there are some benefits with this online class setting where we save money on transportation and we get to make our schedule and time manage but unfortunately for me I am absolutely horrible with time management I never have enough time, 24 hours in a day is just not enough for me.

At the end of the day, I am somewhat happy with the fact that we have online classes because it made me completely, one hundred percent sure that I do not ever want to sign up for online classes during college. As well as it was a great experience as I said earlier something that was completely unexpected and the chances were so low on this even happening. Hopefully later on in life we all can look back and just laugh about this. I also want to thank you (professor) for trying your best with us this semester and giving us flexibility.