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Throughout this semester, I have learned about my various shortcomings and have improved on my skill as a writer. I learned how expressive I can be when I am not writing as a scholar. There are times when it is better to write as a scholar and have a set of guidelines and there are times when it is better for me to write freely. During the Unit 1 Assignment, I realized I had to stop writing as a scholar and start writing in a way that was more personal. The audience I was aiming for and the purpose of my assignment needed a sort of tone that created a sort of connection between the audience and me.

I had to switch back into scholar mode when I was writing my annotated bibliography. In my annotated bibliography, I had to set aside my personal feelings and beliefs, take an objective look into the sources that were available to me and not actively look for sources which would validate any belief I had. I had to describe all of the sources in a matter of fact tone. The second assignment made me realize just how important code switching is for various tasks.

I learned I have a difficult time articulating myself when it comes to explaining a concept or discussing a topic. During all of my assignments, I constantly struggled to find the right words to use. I would constantly go on the internet and type down what I was trying to describe to see if there were any words which could describe what I was saying. This was made most prominent in the Unit 2 Assignment, where I had to summarize various sources in a concise way. I will have to expand my vocabulary in the future so I do not find myself struggling to find the right words for my papers.

I feel I have grown as a reader since I am more capable of making connections and seeing thematic and narrative elements. When I started the semester, it was hard for me to see what themes a story was trying to present and why certain things were done in a story to push that theme forward. Now, I am able to see the broader picture due to watching the Antigone play and seeing the impact it had on people. As a writer, I felt I have grown in my ability to create bibliographies. I have a guideline of questions to ask myself when I am writing a bibliography. I know how to address the multiple facets of a source. I will ask myself what information should and should not be in a summary of the source, since previously I included too much information in some bibliographies. I have learned how to better cut down on irrelevant information in my papers. This was a problem in most of my assignments. While I had learned about myself bloating my paper with information since I was in middle school, I still had difficulties in learning how to address that problem.

I will be taking all of these lessons to heart. I will cut down on any unnecessary information and just include what is important in my papers. I will try and think deeply about my audience and the purpose of my papers to see how I should write. I will look into expanding my vocabulary and that will hopefully enrich my skills as a writer and help me in cutting down on any unnecessary information. When I am writing my papers, I will ask myself a series of questions about what I am writing in order to be concise. With my skills as a reader, I will be able to analyze stories with much more clarity and see the mental process people go through when they create their works. With all of these lessons, I am sure I will become a better writer.