**Unit 1: language and metacognition**

 *This is where it all started. A start to a new English course in the spring semester. This unit is probably the single most important unit of not only ENG1121, but all the English classes I have had so far. The constraint writings forced us to explore a different style of writing than we are used to. It challenged us to rewire our writing circuit to be more flexible and efficient. We had to use vocabularies that we generally avoid and structure sentence in ways that we typically don’t. I remember looking in the abyss as I tried to reroute my sentence around the word “the”. It was frustrating. The ascending and descending order constraint assignment of fear and cure was even harder to write. I even doubted the significance of the “useless lessons”- as I called them. I think it also served a purpose of reminding us how our writing has been constrained by strict requirements. Which leads me to the next lesson of the unit: freedom essay. Just when I thought the constraints were not weird enough, we were hit with the freedom essay. I was really uncomfortable with this assignment. It had no specific requirements. Even though it was confusing, and I did not realize the reason for the rather “strange” assignment, I eventually figured it out. Like prof. Schmerler mentioned in her last lecture, she assigned us this essay to increase our confidence to write and bring out the best of our writing ability. And what best is there to do that than an assignment that let’s you write your heart out without any constraints and requirements? For my freedom essay I wanted to write something unique. The topic of the essay is not uncommon, and I knew it would be a challenge to write something that stands out. I decided to take a philosophical approach to write the essay- a decision that would become a great ordeal to me. In my first draft I started the essay with saying “we are all imprisoned from birth”. Then I went on to establish an idea that having a great amount of knowledge can set us free. But, at the same time I wrote that it is frustrating and imprisoning knowing that there will be infinite things that we won’t be able to know about. Problem with the essay was that I did not elaborate or give details on my ideas and had a hasty ending. The essay being a philosophical one, I needed to explain my views in detail so that my readers would not be confused. I wrote the essay again and this time I rejected both physical and mental freedom. I clearly explained why I feel like physical freedom is not practical. I tried to tell my readers that the mind is the only place where some form of freedom can be achieved, but still it’s not totally freeing.*

 Freedom essay:

 **The delusion of freedom**

What is freedom? Are there any set amount of rules that define it? But won’t having definite rules be against the very essence of “freedom”? These questions stormed through mind the last few days, as I set out on a quest to write a unique paper on a topic that is not so unique.

What I came to terms with is that freedom is subjective. There should not be any fixed rules to define freedom. Freedom should be without any restrictions. Your freedom is customized to your liking and whatever sets your free is what your find freedom in

I would argue that we do not live in a free society. According to dictionary.com, “Freedom is the power or right to act, speak or think as one wants without any hinderance or restraint”. That means, to be a truly free world, there can be no rules or laws. Do I have your attention yet? Yes, I mean exactly what I say. In a free society there can be no restrictions that prohibits certain actions. If society had true freedom, people would not be judged or prosecuted.

We are groomed from a very early age. Our parents, the society and government all want us to act in certain ways. Government even goes as far as regulating our body. In this physical world we have no choice but to follow societal rules, if we want to live in society. That to me is anything but “freedom”. I’m not against rules and laws. Some laws are crucial for societies to function. But regardless of detrimental or beneficial rules/laws, freedom ends where restriction begins.

If physical freedom is a lie and impractical then maybe true freedom lies in the mind? After all, the mind is where you are away from the vulturous eyes of society. Here you can dream without being laughed at. Here you can live the life that you always wanted. I feel free and at peace when I give my mind the access to the unknown. I get to live many lives by reading books. I get to walk in many people’s shoes and experience what they experienced. When I read books I feel like transcending both space and time. Sometimes I find myself walking beside Hamlet as he mourns for his dead father or standing in the crowd watching a passionate Martin Luther king as he delivered his famous “I have a dream speech”.

 And The beauty of learning is that there are infinite things to know about. You could live your life several times over and still not learn a fraction of the vast amount of things that resides within the universe, or multiverse! The world at times does seem like a prison when I think about it this way. An ever-growing living prison that expands as we progress. My mind which is like an endless pit- a voracious blackhole keeps asking for more and more. My restless mind wants to know about everything that it finds interesting. But I’m a human being after all. Just like the barrier of light speed is absolute and can’t be surpassed, knowledge is infinite and humans can’t learn about everything that’s out there. I’m neither physically free nor am I free mentally.

 Commute to College (excluding “the”):

I had mixed feelings when I woke up today. I was both annoyed and excited because college was going to start again from today. After I took s shower and had lunch it was already 4:30. It took me a few more minutes to get ready and I rushed out of my house. I did not want to be late on the first day of the new semester.  I ran to our subway station but missed a 7 train by a few seconds as it sped past me. Fortunately, another train followed shortly, and I quickly hopped in. I found an empty seat and   quickly sat down. I noticed a bright red light reflecting on a window in front of me. It was beautiful. I wanted to go up and sit facing the sunset but felt uncomfortable thinking what the person sitting there would think. Before i could make up my mind it got dark. I nodded off soon after and barely got up in time to get off at Jay street metro tech.

**Unit 2: genre and rhetoric**

*I had a new understanding of the term “genre” in this unit. Before, if you asked me what genre was, I would say different types of movies, songs, games, books and maybe a few more. I did not know that everything with a specific style, falls under a specific type of genre. For example, I knew that there was a specific style to something like a shop receipt, but I never thought of it as a genre. Genre is something that we deak with every day. From buying something, to listening to music, to playing video games, to writing any kind of paper, we are always dealing with specific types of genres. It was a really important unit, because now with the knowledge that most, if not everything, has some unique characteristics to it, I can learn about them in google and write in that genre myself. For example, if I want to write a book review, I can research on “how to write book reviews” and give my two cents on my favorite books. I think this knowledge will be really useful to me to write reviews on the “easy-to-understand” physics books that I read.*

**Faisal Rahman**

**English 1121, E106**

 **Genre analysis: “dumbed down books”**

*The genre I chose to write in does not have a definite name. but if were to explain it, it is a culmination of sophisticated ideas and theories explained in a “dumbed down” way without going into technical details. The beauty of this genre is that it tells us as much as we need to understand -without going into broad details-, say a scientific theory, that most people without prior experience with the topic won’t understand*. *An example of a book from this genre is called, “What is Relativity” by Jeffrey Bennet. This book contains all the important ideas about relativity without being very technical. The audience of this genre/book are people that are interested in astronomy, but, are new to the topic.*

The world is a very complex dimension created by some unknown entity. From astronomical objects such as the planets, stars, blackholes, nebulae, to atomic objects that includes protons, electrons, neutrons and others, there exist a lot of physical and intangible phenomenon. From the philosophical ideas of humanities to the laws of physics, there are a lot of sophisticated explanation as to why we exist and how we exist in this world. For the masses it can be challenging, and sometimes extremely hard, to grasp a hold of the ideas and proven laws about the world. If we go into specifics, astronomy for example is a realm of science that is often stereotyped as a subject for the “nerds”. Though it is true that some of the concepts of astronomy, is hard to understand, we should still know how our world at large operates.

The advanced books that explains these hard to understand phenomenon and ideas are too hard and monotonous for the novice reader.  A genre was created for this very reason keeping the masses in mind. This genre of books generally contains all the concepts of a specific topic, but only explained in an easier way. In this regard, this genre is different from those genres that only contains the basics. The books of this genre have a lot of easy to understand examples. I have noticed that it is much easier to understand something when you can relate it to something else that you have already experienced or know about. These books also contain less to no complicated mathematical proofs to prove a law or theory. When mathematical applications are absolutely needed to explain something, the author generally tells that to the reader and suggests them to read a more advanced book if they want to further their knowledge on the subject. without much technical details, these books generally lack concrete evidence to back up what the author is trying to convey.

*“Shitty first drafts”*

*“Shitty first drafts” was a very significant reading that helped me improve my writing style. My writing style was very flawed and inefficient before I read this article. I would take only one attempt at writing something and would take a very long time to write it. My system of writing not only made me dislike writing altogether, but it also hindered me from writing to the best of my ability. Reading this paper I learned that it is okay to have a “shitty first draft” ; That it is the same for professional writers, who writes a lot of drafts to improve their bad first draft. After I started doing the same It certainly made my writing better and it also takes me less time now to complete a paper. Instead of looking at the ceiling thinking about what to write, I just write whatever comes to my mind. When you write multiple drafts, you can locate the problems in our writing and fix them. You can polish the rough idea that sprouted when you first sat down to write the paper and improve the overall aesthetic of your writing. The first draft is the blueprint to your paper. It contains the main ideas and it lays down a rough format that you can follow in your later drafts.*

1. I used to write one draft for each paper or piece of writing. I would spend hours trying to write the best i could. I would write down a line and erase it after reading it over and over.  It was not very pleasant and made me hate writing. But now I have started to write multiple drafts after learning that its very time efficient, and that the quality of the final paper also comes out much better than just writing one draft.
2. I am new to writing multiple drafts. but for my last essay "suffocating freedom" i wrote four drafts. once i started to write, my ideas just kept pouring. But the ideas in each of the drafts came out different. I would blame my lack of experience with writing drafts for this. Like i stated above in question 1, I am used to writing only one draft per piece of writing, so when i wrote multiple drafts for "freedom" I could not contain my ideas. That's why my drafts were not "down" drafts, "up" drafts and "dental" drafts. They were normal drafts with completely different approach and ideas.
3. I actually was not surprised at the title of the reading because professor Schmerler already told me how the first draft always comes out bad, and that i should just write down whatever comes to my mind(even songs, drawings) and just keep writing.So when i read " the shitty first draft" it was a lot like what prof. Schmerler taught us about writing drafts.
4. I will have to get over my persistence to write the "perfect" piece of writing in one sitting or in one draft to be able to write a "shitty first draft".

***unit:3 Inquiry and research***

*Unit 3 was overwhelming. I could not understand the requirements of this unit at first. But eventually I understood that I would have to propose a research study. When I realized it, the assignment became very easy for me. The research study had to be about something that we are good at and the problems and concerns facing it. My passion for soccer gave me a head start. I know how big and impactful soccer is around the world and wanted to brainstorm a research proposal that would tell Americans about the great benefits of soccer and why they are probably misunderstanding the very essence of the game.*

**Student Name: Faisal Rahman**

**Course and Section Number: ENG-1121, E-106**

**Date: 05/24/19**

**UNIT 3             Worksheet 2          brainstorming your Research Proposal**

I feel that it is important to discuss about the lack of American interest for the global sport of soccer. Soccer is the most famous sport in the world, with an estimated fan base of 3.5 billion people. But in the U.S, soccer ranks at 7 as the most favorite sport.

This discussion will bring light to the reason why so many people around the world are so fond of soccer. It will reveal to the everyday American what they are missing and how they should approach the game of soccer to enjoy the true beauty of the game. It would help us to reconnect to the world and have good relationships with other countries. It would teach the people of U.S unity and benefit of teamwork. And I think all of us can agree on the fact the unity is something that this country lacks a lot.

There is a reason that almost half of the population of the world are fans of what they call the “beautiful game”. The simplicity of soccer is one of the main reasons for its popularity. All you need is a soccer ball and you are good to go. You can use sticks or even your back packs to set up the goal posts. Because of this anyone can afford it. But simplicity is not the only reason for its popularity. The games are non-stop 90 minutes of jam-packed of actions, strategies, passion and perseverance. But despite that majority Americans think that the sport is boring. And their patience, or lack thereof is to blame.  The American argument that it is a boring game is false. They think soccer is boring because of the few goals that are scored in a game. But in reality, there are always something that is going on in the field. If you blink you may miss a lightning slide tackle or a thunderstruck shot at goal. Other than the strategical buildup in the midfield, shot saving from the goal keepers, running through the wings are all exciting things in a soccer game. Soccer is like a chess game where the pieces are highly mobile and less restricted to move. Like in chess, there are key players whose general position are in strategic positions from where a fast attack can be launched. Those positions, which are typically in the midfield region are also good for transitioning to defense.

Since soccer is a team game and to play or understand the game you need to have or at least develop of team player mentality. People in the states are ditching the idea of teamwork. They mostly care about themselves and don’t like to help others. If this keeps up, we won’t be able to function as a society. Soccer can teach us to care about one another again through the spirit of teamwork.

Soccer is like the language of the world. since, so many people know and are passionate about soccer, it is the ice breaker, the conversation starter and the friend maker. This is the expression that billions of people, around the globe, use as a medium to connect to one another. We are being left out. We are being isolated from the rest of the world. There are many other things to blame for the slow isolation, but rejecting the ambassador of the world, soccer, is a very critical one.

https://www.forbes.com/sites/briangoff/2014/07/08/the-5-best-and-worst-things-about-soccer/#734e6493017ehttps://www.complex.com/sports/2015/03/the-great-beauty-of-a-simple-gamehttps://www.sunburynews.com/sports/7276/why-do-americans-hate-soccer-while-the-rest-of-the-world-loves-footballhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyXgE6H6tms

Unit 4: multi-modal

*Just like many of the other assignments in this course, I have never done a multi-modal project before. I had to think for quite a while to figure out what kind of video I could make. My research inquiry tells us why American’s don’t like soccer and why they should. So, to form connections between the contents of my inquiry project and the multimedia project, I interviewed amateur soccer players in a soccer field near city tech. My main focus was to get their opinion on why Americans don’t like soccer, and if the country will ever brace the magical game.*

https://youtu.be/ry220AQGUWA