Amani Shihadeh

ENG 1121 – D439

***My Journey – Final Reflection***

 Dear Professor Schmerler,

This semester probably was one of my most difficult, with both being in school and work full-time it was hard to keep up at times. School has always been very important to me and no matter how hard it gets I always end up toughening it out because I care about my performance and grades. This English class had to be the most interesting English class I’ve taken, I definitely did not expect sitting around in circles sharing our creative writings, thoughts and ideas. At first I was not comfortable with it because, I’m more a sitting through lectures type of student. But being in this class has helped me in many ways, I can’t speak for the rest of the class but I definitely feel more confident in my writings and expressing my ideas because you taught us there is no such thing as a “wrong” piece of writing/idea and to just write anything that comes to our minds. I was able to dig deep and explore the many ideas I always had but was never able to express them through writing because I didn’t know how.

I’m not the best person to write essays, but in this class we were allowed to pretty much write whatever we wanted however we wanted and without the stricter guidelines that allowed us to write sounding like ourselves. Writing constraints was my favorite and least favorite, because just the idea of writing without certain letters seemed impossible but it definitely wasn’t, and hearing the many writings from my classmates just wowed me to believe that the more we dig deeper allowing our creativity to shine, anything is possible.

***UNIT 1***

*In unit one we explored writing exercises as a warm up to the semester. I liked that were able to express our fears and cures in writing, at the time I wasn’t sure what to write about I know I’m scared of many things but out of everything I chose spiders to write as my fear. Although I am seriously afraid of them, I wish I can go back and chose something else maybe like death or aging. I never was asked to write about my fears, so it did interest me when we were asked to write on it. We also discussed our influences like TV shows, books, music etc. and placed them on our “shelf” which was also fun to talk and write about.*

**FEAR**

When I see it, I run. Others scream, when I look further its fast to run and hide. They come in all shapes and sizes, more legs than others, I fear arachnids. Arachnids are little creatures that can be found indoors and outdoors. When I see them, I call someone else to come kill it but the second you turn around its gone. I wish arachnids didn’t exist.

**CURE**

Surely we know there is no cure. Maybe putting all of them in the same room with me will help but that is very unlikely and will never work.

**TV SHOWS/ INFLUENCES**

Greys anatomy:  By Shonda Rhymes – This show has taught me many life lessons, not to take anyone or anything for granted. It shows us how fast life can change within seconds and overall it speaks to your heart and makes you want to grab “your person” and hold onto them for dear life.

Power: By Courtney Kemp – This show has changed my perspective on New York City and all its drug dealing truthfulness. There is some serious life lessons within every show. It has also taught me the many devious doings of our justice system.

***UNIT 2***

*In unit two we were asked to write an essay on what freedom means to us, which I enjoyed doing because freedom has a universal value. It can mean all different ways to all different people, and everyone in class wrote about how they perceive freedom. We also explored different types of genres and wrote recipes. Writing recipes was easy and fun and genres was a bit confusing to me because I actually never thought about the different types of genre and ways to further break it down. So we had to choose our favorite genre, I picked wikihow because I am always looking up how to do things and wikihow makes it easier with the little pictures along with the instructions.*

**GENRE ANALYSIS**

The type of genre I chose is WikiHow, which is a website made for people when they’re looking up how to do a particular activity like, how to roast marshmallows or how to exercise. Many people nowadays are always looking for new things to do or try whether they already know it but have never tried or it’s completely new to them so they look it up. I chose to do my genre in WikiHow, writing on how to apply makeup. Wikihow is meant to be an easy step picture guide on how to achieve a particular activity, which makes it simple and convenient for people to follow. In my case, my audience would be makeup lovers, beginners, influencers or anyone who simply interested can use this greatly as a tool to learn or teach.

**RECIPE –** How to Have a Successful Relationship

**Ingredients:**

* Serves minimum of two people
* Compassion (1 Gallon)
* Communication (1 ½ cup)
* Understanding (1 ½ cup)
* Trust (1 Gallon)
* Emotion (1 Gallon)

**Instructions:**

Always be yourself and love yourself first before loving another.

You need to be able to always communicate about important topics (good communication)

Be understanding towards another

Always try to make time for one another

Building trust is very important

Being a good friend comes first

 Have good listening skills

**NAVIGATING GENRES**

I never really post on Facebook just like most people, I am not comfortable with anyone knowing my business. Occasionally, if I feel passionate enough to share/repost  a video – something probably related to politics, education or just a meaningful life lesion video because I enjoy those. I feel like older people on Facebook love to write anything, even if its too much information or misspelled. My grandmother for that matter doesn’t, she just likes to scroll and watch videos. I do believe that are some older people who are better than young kids on social media.

My favorite title was “I Am Under 18 Button Clicked For First Time In History”

Rules I carry are that essays, writing pieces, thesis statements, etc., are supposed to be formally structured yet that’s the thing I find myself to struggle in, to properly structure and not have it look like scattered thoughts.

**SHITTY FIRST DRAFTS**

Depending on the assignment I normally do two drafts, reading this article made me realize that I’ve always been doing “down drafts, up drafts and dental drafts” without even realizing but someone finally put it in words. I wasn’t surprised by the title I think it was pretty straight forward. Shitty first drafts are supposed to be somewhat shitty, so I don’t think that will change. But I can see myself now focusing on lowering the voices when writing.

**Freedom Essay**

Finding Freedom

What is freedom? Is it an absolute right? I believe we are born to be free. Freedom is interpreted differently by everyone. Some define freedom as a natural right, a human being is born with. Everyone wants to be free and independent from others. Freedom is the right to do what one wants, live where they want, learn what they want, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of choice, without belittling or harming others rights.

How can we live free? From my point of view, we can live free by respecting others rights to live free too. We cannot ignore the rights of people with whom we share society with. We cannot simply do what we want and ignore others. We must take other people rights into consideration. The idea behind freedom is to be respectful and useful to our society. Freedom is important to everyone. When freedom is guaranteed, I can think freely, go where I want, say my opinion without fear from people who would not like my opinion. Freedom of opinion is among the most important branches of freedom. In some societies where freedom of opinion is not guranteed by the authority, the creativity of mind is killed and buried. Society is the largest and biggest loser from this lack of creativity. Someone once said, freedom of opinion will never result in animosity among people if they respect each other. Freedom is not an absolute right, and there are too many constraints on it. Firstly, society rights including national security which is very important. Security is just as important as freedom. Our practicing of freedom should never lead to threatening our national security. Secondly, freedom of belief, to believe in what you want and choice of your religion. We also should have the right to establish our own places where we perform our religious actions.

I also believe that freedom has to be understood in the right time in one’s life. It comes through maturity, learned lessons and challenges faced throughout your life. Finding who you are as a person and your place, is a big thing for everyone in this world, and once you do you will be at peace. Freedom can most definitely come in the most unexpected ways and places, the irony of Malcolm X is that he learned his in prison, where freedom does not exist. Malcolm X had the freedom of time. With that time spent in prison he fought through his ignorance to teach himself reading and writing new vocabulary words and understanding books. I believe confinement is definitely mental and spiritual than physical.

Parents must teach their children the value of this word and to define it to be exactly what it is, free. They must instill in them the love for freedom. Freedom in the teen years is very important for building a good character and stable personality. Although for young teens growing up it can easily be misunderstood. Freedom isn’t supposed to mean hanging out late or whenever they feel like it, or acting out in a disrespecting manor. It is the responsibility of positive and creative expression, to learn and love who you are and where you come from. And to be at peace with that.

***UNIT 3***

*In unit three we had to do more research on genres and create and inquiry based argumentative project. If I had known choosing makeup as my genre would lead to creating an argumentative project which requires a solution I would have picked a different topic. Although I do think it turned out okay with all the issues today’s society has with makeup. This was probably the hardest one to work on, but with discussing with other classmates and following the worksheets guided questions it help a little.*

**UNIT 3 Worksheet 1 – Inquiry Project**

My general area of study is: Makeup

1. After doing some preliminary research. I am able to note elow at least one argument/discussion/problem that surrounds my area of study:
* Women often have a conflicted relationship with makeup because of today’s society and makeup shaming
1. The people or community of people most affected by this problem are..
* Makeup artists, enthusiasts, influencers, young girls and boys.
1. Key terms or phrases that associate with this issue.
* “Low confidence”, “too much makeup”, “personality”, “confidence”
1. Here are sources I have used so far to read about and otherwise learn about this issue
* <https://blushmagfit.com/makeup-shaming-it-still-exists/>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4Ov8qvZ2_w>

**Unit 3 Worksheet 2**

Many people wear makeup as a form of expression. Makeup is a type of art. The looks that people create with makeup are incredible, and seeing those looks encourages other people to come up with their own while portraying a person’s mood, culture, personality, and even their thoughts. Makeup means, a form of expression, not a means to hide.

 Makeup is more than just business and products, it allows one to feel like the best version of themselves. The current issue with makeup is how women often have a conflicted relationship with makeup, for some a lipstick is just a lipstick, but for others, it’s a source of strength, creativity, and expression. People use makeup as their tool to craft and showcase their strengths fueling confidence. I personally love makeup and everything about it, from buying it, to applying it and how it makes me feel, I find it therapeutic. Many people like to think you’re masking who you are, these concepts about makeup are embedded in our society and have created “makeup-shaming” and despite all these perceptions, the idea that makeup is an art form that people engage in solely for themselves is being introduced and embraced. Like clothes, makeup is an immediate platform to show the world your creativity.

 Such discussion would bring the following potential benefits whether you wear makeup or not, male or female, it’s your freedom of choice to choose how you want to express yourself. It’s not about the insecurities if wearing makeup makes you feel better, than you should.

Everyone should feel comfortable in their own skin; makeup isn’t there to hide who you are but there to embrace your best self. With encouragement and kindness, everyone will have the confidence to experiment with it.

 In this source it talks about how one shouldn’t feel insecure to wear makeup but encourages you to do so, if it makes you feel good about yourself.

Audrey K. (2017) The Aragon Outlook Makeup: A Form of Expression, Not a Means to Hide

 In this source it explains another reason why woman shouldn’t feel guilty or ashamed to wearing “too much makeup” and list why no one should listen to the makeup shaming comments and how to further express yourself.

Antley D. (2017) Is Makeup a Form of Self-Expression or Yet another Unfair Standard for Women?

**Unit 3 Final Inquiry**

Makeup means a lot to most than others, and nowadays makeup-shaming is a real situation. Many woman struggle to find their true self or just something that makes them feel good about themselves because of today’s society, unfortunately some people still vocally judge women for wearing “a lot of makeup” with the common misconception among those who don’t wear makeup often is that they feel like those who do wear makeup must feel “insecure” or like “they need to impress someone.” When in all honestly we do it to feel and look good or simply be creative artists. Makeup is an outlet for creativity and to make yourself feel beautiful, with the ability to wash it off and start all over.

In today’s society one is never pleased with themselves, so they feel like they have to shape themselves into what society wants them to look like, and it’s a shame. This is has led to many controversial topics, with specifically makeup. Yes, you don’t need makeup to prove your self-worth, or to believe that it is the reason for your “beauty”, or to have society take control of how you think you should look like. Makeup is a lot more than that. There’s another side to this topic in which I strongly believe in, and that is that makeup truly is a type of art. It’s a type of art that many people can interpret differently and can create their own.

Woman are in this constant battle with themselves on deciding how they want to express themselves, leading to a conflicted relationship with makeup. Social media can play in a good role with creating the awareness to end makeup shaming, many makeup artists and bloggers have shared stories on how they had the courage to just be able to express what they love and enjoy it. Being the influencers they are, encourages and uplifts most to be able to learn how to express themselves in their own ways. Most influencers have made the effort to end the makeup shaming business, by creative inspirational videos ending the stigma.

Many more people need to see that wearing makeup isn’t masking who you are, it’s expressing the best version of yourself. People use makeup as their tool to craft and showcase their strengths fueling confidence. Despite all the perceptions our society has embedded in us, the idea that makeup is a form of art that people engage in solely for themselves is being embraced. Like clothes, makeup is an immediate platform to show the world your creativity. To be more open minded and to allow other be themselves is all the makeup world really needs.

This discussion would bring potential benefits whether you wear makeup or not, male or female, it’s your freedom of choice to choose how you want to express yourself. It’s not about the insecurities and the shaming it’s about simply helping yourself and others express your true self and love it. Everyone should feel comfortable in their own skin; makeup isn’t there to hide who you are but to embrace your best self. With encouragement and kindness, everyone will have the confidence to experiment with it.

***UNIT 4***

*Unit four is the multi-modal project, first time hearing that and I had no idea what that was. The introvert in me panicked and I thought it was nerve wrecking to hear maybe we had to create our own video because I’m not tech savvy. Thankfully I found a perfect youtube video that brings up today’s issue with makeup from one of my favorite makeup artists.*

In this video by NikkiTutorials, she expresses her concern for today’s generation with makeup shaming and she shares her concern for how some people may feel ashamed to say they love makeup or they love to wear it and put it on for fun. When it’s not something to hide, if you love it do it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4Ov8qvZ2_w>