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### Final Reflection

This term has been a roller coaster both academically and emotionally. During this term I've learned so much about myself as a person and as a writer. This semester's writings included a discourse community statement, annotated bibliography, and a multimodal project. Oftentimes, I complete the work for a passing grade, however, the reflection aspect of these assignments really helped me put into perspective what I've learned. My favorite assignment included the discourse community statement. Before being introduced to what a discourse community was, I wasn't aware that a community can be composed of small and big groups of individuals. Every individual has a unique perception of what a community may be to them. For me, a community has been the people around me that gave me the encouragement and support to achieve my goals. However, as I learned about what a discourse community was, I felt the sense of belonging to healthcare workers or aspiring nursing students. From my artist statement I stated "You matter and our nurses matter; therefore, our healthcare system is a priority". From this assignment, I learned the importance of community involvement. As an individual, I got to reflect on how I can help my discourse community and gain a sense of belonging. Throughout this semester, not only did writing this assignment helped me reflect on community involvement, but it taught me a very important lesson. My discourse community recently was going through a difficult time when nurses were in a shortage and were experiencing burnout from hard labor. As I informed

myself about the struggles my discourse community was facing through this assignment, I knew that I had to find a way to help. I volunteered to complete 100 hours at a hemodialysis center with Davita. I got to meet patients with renal failure or acute kidney failure that quickly became like family. The role of a patient care technician allowed me to provide care to each patient during their treatment. Upon the completion of my volunteering hours, I was hired to work for them full time! It was once said “volunteers don't really have the time, they just have the heart”. I got to give back to my discourse community who will now be providing me with a full time job and an offer to pay for some of my college classes to become a future dialysis registered nurse. My community involvement and this assignment has taught me that volunteering cannot be defined for how long you've done it for, but instead it can be defined through your good intentions.

I always figured that most of the things I've learned in school were never implemented into my life. This caused me to lose interest in learning. However, in this term, I find that everything I have learned I'll be able to implement into my future career and carry the confidence I've gained as a writer, speaker and as a person. I connected with literacy because it opened the doors to a whole new perspective every time. I learned to conduct research, interpret statistics, differentiate credible from an unreliable source, do MLA citation and so much more. During this learning process, it took some time for me to gather the right information but I slowly began to understand how to get the right information from reliable sources as we learned in class. Once I overcame this, I enjoyed learning upon my research, for example my assignment annotated bibliography. One quote I stated from this writing was “I expect to get a better understanding on how gender oppression has changed throughout the years”. This quote shows my interest in

conducting this research. As a writer, one of the most important aspects of conducting research is gathering a credible source. I chose the topic “gender oppression” because it was relatively one of the most concerning topics we are facing today. Not enough awareness is being taken seriously, however if I educate myself upon this research I can educate others in the near future. In this unit two annotated bibliography, we focused on gathering and organizing citations and sources that interacted with our research. This is my second time ever having to conduct information on real sources and not just another internet website. We learned to identify real sources based on a reliable author, authority on the subject, and the type of source it is. Putting the information together became difficult for me and took some time. However, I learned to analyze my research intensively. What I learned in this unit will carry on with me throughout many aspects of my life. I'm an aspiring nursing student and this unit tested my critical thinking, ability to interpret and analyze reliable information and finally determining how credited a source can be. This will help me later on take on assessment on medical research with more confidence. Writing is a very important component of nursing. It is our form of communication done through charting. Everything I've learned in this term about myself and academically will be transferred to my education as I further enhance it.

During this semester, I've been able to connect with literacy in a way I never thought I would be able to. Throughout my work, I took a lot of the reading and writing skills into perspective and implemented it into my writing. Writing is a powerful tool that enables us to communicate effectively with one another. As I further expand my skills as a writer, good writing skills provide an individual with confidence in his or her perspective. Oftentimes, whether it is a job interview, or presentation, our abilities to persuade an audience is through how they

articulate our words. As we come to the end of this semester, looking back at my work and analyzing the feedback I got, I learned how to become a better writer. There is no such thing as perfecting a skill but as I further practice my writing, I know I'll be able to get better as I go.