

Reflection on EN202

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Throughout my time in EN202 this semester, I have been working on my research topic. This has allowed me to gain experience writing a research paper, conducting research, and organizing a long term project. Through focusing on my research topic and utilizing the skills taught during the course, I was successfully able to complete my final project.

My topic was limb loss in diabetic patients, and ultimately, I did feel it was a successful area to research. It was definitely a specific subject not previously covered, and my personal interest in the medical field helped motivate me. However, there were difficulties. It was occasionally hard to collect information, as many did not respond to my surveys or emails and it was very time consuming to conduct interviews. These difficulties were somewhat elevated by the structure of the course. By allowing students to write sections of their reports piece by piece, in smaller essay assignments, individuals were able to better prepare for the eventual culmination of the course.

In some areas, I feel my project was strong. For example, I conducted my literature review over the course of the entire semester, therefore, successfully accessing a variety of sources and perspectives. This area could be improved, but I also believe that gathering sources over a long period of time, with a particular focus during the start of the course, aided me in building a foundation for my project. In particular, having the time to gather as many sources related to the CNMI as possible was beneficial, as research conducted in this area is very hard to find and not common. I was lucky to gain a few additional sources of diabetic research in Micronesia later in the project. Such academic material proved extremely beneficial.

Learning how to properly use my gathered resources, amongst other skills, was facilitated by material shared during the course. One helpful resource, was our class textbook. This mainly aided me with information gathering, as it plainly outlined a variety of approaches. Additionally, I used the recommended resources Purdue extensively for correct APA formatting. For research, I would suggest the course book, and for writing, Purdue, to future students. The writing portion of the course required students to write a variety of essay types. This was challenging, as it required me to practice larger skills, such as consistency, and detailed skills, such as how to do box citations or footnotes in APA. The varied skills I learned were extremely helpful, and I was surprised, as learning the additional tools I did showed me how my experience was somewhat limited to writing specific kinds of essays. In particular, I think summarizing research results and writing abstracts will be helpful in my future, as I wish to go into research.

As part of my career, I aim to perform biomedical research. A huge part of this field of academia is writing and publishing studies in order to communicate with the larger academic community. I feel secure in the skills I gained through this course and believe I will be able to write research report on a variety of subjects. Additionally, I would like to further develop my skills with writing methodology sections, as I believe that doing so in the APA format requires precise and concise writing skills. Furthermore, my future requires me to conduct research, so I would like to continue exploring medical research topics. I would like to further conduct research on factors contributing to non-communicable diseases in the CNMI. Not having done this sort of research before, my data collection was the weak point in my project, so I would like to practice and improve my surveying and interview skills for future projects.

In conclusion, I was happy with the outcome of my project and felt I successfully met my goals. I am happy I was able to improve my writing, data collection, and APA formatting skills. I was able to recognize my weaknesses, such as writing methodology sections, and will continue to work on them. Additionally, I will incorporate alternative data analysis tools in future projects, as I utilize alternative data collection methods. I believe this can prove beneficial to my future as I continue to pursue my education.