

Marian Angel B. Danga

Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson

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EN202 Class Reflection

These past several months of class have been especially turbulent, some reasons being more obvious than others. There are a lot of things that I wish I had done earlier for my research project before the typhoon hit and interrupted the entire school year for a handful of months. But what I do have collected, I am content with. This essay will be on the thoughts and experiences I had working on the research project that I had been writing for months for my English 202 class.

Regarding my research project, I initially chose my topic to answer the question: “How do local artists feel now that the NEA has reinstated the Saipan Art Council grant eligibility?” I enjoyed researching this topic because I didn’t know a lot about the Arts Council myself before doing the research. Although I know much more than I did now, I don’t think I was able to collect all of the data to answer my main research question as well as I had hoped. However, I do feel like I answered other sub-questions related to the main one well enough, including just how involved the NMC student body is with the local arts, and I was even able to gather the input of on-island experts: members of the Saipan Arts Council themselves.

As for the actual essay writing process, I feel that how all the separate essays were spaced out lent itself quite well to my schedule in the past; having essays be completed before finally compiling them into the finished research project offered a flexibility that I greatly appreciated.

This format offered a lot of time and opportunity for students to go back and fix things when necessary, and to go out and receive feedback from tutors, all the while not neglecting teaching students how to write these particular types of essays. Finding and analyzing academic literature and writing in APA format were among a couple aspects to academic writing that I had never had the chance of practicing in even my Advanced Placement class in high school, so there was a lot of self-teaching that had to be done alongside learning with the class through lectures and peer-review assignments and activities.

Because I plan to transfer elsewhere in a couple of years, I do see myself using what I had learned in this class in the near future. Aside from academic writing, I found myself cultivating strengths I never knew I had, and unlearning bad habits that I had picked up years ago in high school (all of which relate to time management, self-confidence issues and a really bad case of Imposter Syndrome...) I feel much more confident in my academic writing than when I had first started.