

English 101 Course Narrative Essay

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Four months ago, I was excited and nervous to be placed in ENG101 class.

I am excited to learn how college students in this generation do their reading and writing skills being technologically inclined as they are. At the same time I am also nervous because there is hidden fear that I might not meet the course requirement as an ESL learner. During the course, I learned how to select a topic, form a thesis statement, do the research process, gathered reliable materials to support my thesis, used research skills methodology like skimming and scanning resources for information to support my research, do different citations to add credibility to my writing, and applied APA formatting as required for the academic research. The outcome of my essay writing I believe was both gratifying and rewarding, at least in my own opinion.

On the first two months I was having hard time formulating a thesis statement because I still do not know how to put ideas together and what step to follow to get the most useful information on my chosen and assigned topics. The topic I chose was “Mentoring” and “Global Warming”, both topic are comprehensive and complex. Mentoring was a topic of special interest to me because of the benefit I received from generous mentors I met along my life journey. Global warming or climate change has caught my attention after viewing materials that the instructor provided to give us idea about the topic. The topic has awakened my “slumbering awareness” of the severity of the issue that the planet earth is facing at the moment. Global warming, I realized is one favorite topic among freshman students like me. I used both topics to explore different genre of writing. I used persuasive and argumentative essay for mentoring topic, and cause & effect and descriptive essay for global warming topic. In addition to this type of writing, we also explore

process and narrative writing. I believe the topic I chose was a good topic to explore. It is a current need and issue we are facing at the moment. Given a chance I will work on it further because I believe our islands need the benefit of experienced mentors to empower not only individuals but even business wise. Global warming is a global emergency that affects not only the environment but also the other seven dimensions of wellness such as physical, emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual, financial, and occupational.

Miss Anderson, my ENG101 instructor, has provided useful materials to guide us on the process; the course textbooks are well written and equipped with hands-on writing; from free writing, drafts, revised and professional writing, guide for ESL learner and a refresher topic for adult learner like me; the power point presentations are easy to understand; the audio materials and web documents are readily accessible and are equally helpful. The students are also encouraged to visit the local library to use hard books, peer reviewed journals, and EBSCO website to get reliable information and not solely rely on internet resources. Among the resources that I used on my research, I find online peer reviewed journals helpful because of the credibility of the author and site where I found them which is EBSCO/PREL used by Pacific libraries. I wished I could have used library materials like books and updated journals but because of the limitations of the resources both in NMC-Tinian library and Tinian Public Library, I was restricted to do so.

My English 101 course also taught me how to organize my learning schedule by setting aside different times to do research, schedule reading, freewriting, revising, and editing my essays. I also learned to use two effective methodologies in reading which are skimming and scanning for needed facts and information. In high school the teacher did not give much attention as to how we

provide the answer to questions to report it to the class, but through this course I learned how to practice summarizing the text, include direct quotations, and paraphrase information. We also used APA formatting to add credibility to our research paper and learned about in-text citations, direct quotations and referencing our essays. The APA formatting style is quite hard for me to grasp because of the detailed places, and symbols that need to be followed and each citation is different because there is a vast pool of information resources to use in different topics. I do learn though basic referencing on hard books materials with one or two authors and online resources, like videos taken from TED on global warming. I honestly believe that in order for me to grasp the APA formatting lessons I have to take ENG 202 in a classroom setting and not online to have a full access and guidance from my instructor.

On the third month, I was getting confident enough to write a 1-3-1 research type, consist of an introduction, three support paragraphs, and conclusion. I had reached more than 500 words as required for an essay. I have been given a good grade for my essays even with grammatical errors and not so cohesive ideas. I learned a lot from my mistakes and became cautious not to do the same mistakes again. I learned to distinguish what essay type I am using. I enjoyed writing process essay over the entire essay because it gives me clear path to start and finish my writing. Persuasive writing on the other hand is the least type I liked cause this type of writing needs significant facts and requires to prove a stronger point of view. I regret having not given enough time to do free writing and do clustering because of the conflict on my schedule at work and at home during my first two months. Something I need to work on for my next writing course. I also need to work on my thesis statement skill because I believe I am not catching enough interest on the ones I have chosen.

Overall, I believe that the outcome of my essay writing was both gratifying and rewarding, at least in my own opinion. When I looked at the finished essay and receive good remarks from Ms. Anderson, I give myself a tap in the shoulder for reward on a very challenging task. By this time, I fully realized that writing is not a natural gift but indeed a learned skill, and a skill that needs a lot of time and attention for improvement. Proof of those tedious tasks is the amount of time I spent just writing a draft that took me six straight hours to complete. I also know based on experience that the lesson I learned from my ENG101 course will be helpful to me in every aspect of my life, whether in my other classes and even at the workplace, where I will be asked to write a report or proposal that is easy to understand and follow. At the very least, I now know how to sit down, gather my thoughts, locate materials, and write essay or research report that will convey my ideas in an organize and simple way.