English Composition Reflection

Tasha Rae Agulto Deleon Guerrero

Northern Marianas College

Author Note

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The topic for my research project was the current status of school break-ins in Saipan. Right now, I am majoring in Education, so I wanted my research topic to focus on schools. Recently, many schools on Saipan have been burglarized, so my teacher suggested the topic of school break-ins. I found this topic very interesting not only because it focused on the schools but also because during my time in high school my school has been broken into twice. This is why I wanted to learn the motives for the break-ins and what has been done about it. To begin my research, I started conducting interviews, searching for academic literary sources, and creating surveys.

The beginning of my research project was fairly easy. I was able to get three people who are experts on school break-ins to participate in an interview with me. I had chance to interview the president of my high school, a police officer, and the supervisor for juvenile probation. It was an interesting experience to do these interviews; listening to their experiences with the break-ins was very educational. Although it would’ve been better if I planned a better schedule I would’ve done a follow up interview and maybe also find more experts to interview.

For the second part of my data gathering, I conducted a search for academic literary sources on my topic. This was my first time searching for books in an online database. I used EBSCO eBooks to find my literature sources. In the beginning, it was difficult to find anything about school break-ins. It was such a narrow topic that I had to broaden it, so I wouldn’t end up with zero results. Instead of searching for books about break-ins, I searched for literature about juvenile delinquency. In my interviews, all the interviewees stated that it was mostly children who burglarize schools. So from there, I focused my literary search on juvenile delinquency. I found a lot of intriguing research dealing with the causes and preventions of juvenile delinquency.

The last part of my data collection was my surveys. It was difficult trying to figure the type of questions that would get useful information. Luckily, the class did a pilot survey so I was able to gain feedback to improve my questions for the NMC student survey. The survey wasn’t has helpful as I hoped it would be, though.. There are many factors as to why this is so. One of them would be the type of questions I asked, maybe I should’ve phrased or ask different questions. Another factor would be the responders. I was only able to survey two English academic writing classes and even though classes had a small amount of students. In all honesty if I had just taken the time to create surveys for the people like students of schools that were broken into, or maybe a survey for parents, then the outcome would’ve been different.

Overall the whole research project was such a beneficial experience. I learned many new things like writing in APA format. I never knew what APA format was and thought it was similar to MLA. I was sadly mistaken, but now I know a lot about APA format. Learning it would prove quite useful in my college courses and future as a teacher. Another thing I learned was how to use EBSCO eBooks. Before I never really bothered to use it when I learned about it in a College Success class. Using the online database, I found it very convenient to search for sources. It was also very simple to access and it was very efficient in finding credible information. I enjoyed the process and learning experience that this class has given. Though there were things I could’ve done better, it’s still very useful for my future writing.