Ervin Cruz

EN202-02: English Composition II

Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson

December 8, 2013

**Reflection**

Looking at the progression of my writing style and knowledge throughout this course, I think that I have improved so much. I can now say that I am familiar with the proper format that is APA, the means of data collection, and putting together the data to create a final research report. This reflection will indicate my feelings toward the subject that I have chosen, my strengths and weaknesses, the preferred methods used, and other factors to consider when reporting the findings.

In terms to my feeling on the topic, I feel complacent and I would not have chosen a topic any better than this one. It was a good topic to conduct research on because it was controversial meaning that it was unbiased. It is not something that one can come to the conclusion without having strong support. It requires the compilation of a mass amount of data in order to see patterns in what the people think. If I were to work on this research further, I would most likely do so because I am really interested in extraterrestrial life. When choosing the method to construct a final research report, I would prefer that the four essays having topics provided the direction of final research report is evident. The method in which Dr. Bunts-Anderson chose was not favorable because as I started to put my research report together, I was confused with the direction of my report. I stayed on the task of revising my final research report for hours and in the end, I was still unsure of the result.

The time allotted to gather literature sources is critical in providing qualitative and quantitative support. I think that Dr. Bunt-Anderson made the right decision to give this task to us at the beginning which proved quite helpful. It gave me some time to scan through them to make sure that they were able to aid my research. The sources gathered helped me to answer the proposed research questions and were interesting throughout. It was problematic to find book sources are our library was quite limited. I managed to find only two books that were related to my research which led me to rely on internet sources that may be unreliable depending on where information is found. Although I had only two book sources, one of them, Erich Von Daniken’s ‘Chariots of the Gods’ proved extremely useful as I made reference to the book many times in my first essay. It was filled with loads of interesting information on history relating to extraterrestrials which reflects on the book’s success. In terms of the type of sources that were most helpful, I would choose published books and journal articles. Like I have mentioned, the books had loads of information which I can choose from to aid my research while the articles were focused on specific points related to my research report.

In addition to the literature related to my topic, the textbook and other supplementary materials were instrumental in preparation and finalization of my research report. Through these sources, I was given an overview of the rules of academic and research writing. The source that was most helpful was the APA guidebook which answered my questions most of the time regarding proper citation of information used within my research. The application of the sources that we have done in class was most effective because we got a chance to practice the things that we have learned which allows higher retention of the knowledge.

With the skills that I have acquired from this course, I feel as if I can handle any research project. The skills obtained from this course will allow me to locate sources with ease as well as determining their validity for future research. I feel pretty confident about my skill to write essays of different genres; some, if not all. I also believe that my APA formatting skills have improved tenfold whether it is to cite sources or to format final research reports. I used to use MLA format for all the essay I had to produce for classes; but now that I know the APA format, I will start writing essay the preferred way. I also acquired skills in collecting primary research data (methodology). As it was mentioned earlier, practice is vital. The process of the data collection is clear in order to address different approaches. Its importance is emphasized as the data collected is directly focused on the respective research.

My strengths in regards to the project were providing the right information and the amount of interest I had in my topic. My interest in the topic was the only thing that kept me going throughout this course. For the same reason, I was able to gather loads of information as well as present them. My weakness, however, was managing my time to prepare the individual essays putting the report together. As a habit, I would put things off until the very last minute. This has not produced results that I have wanted. It is something that I am currently working on in order to produce excellent results.

In terms of improvement in academic writing, I think that I have improved but I will need to improve more. Writing in academic language became natural after writing the components of this research project. The problems that I have are the using the wrong articles within a sentence and the limit to my vocabulary. Ideas seemed redundant because the words that I use reappear a few times in my work.

As a result of this course, I came to the conclusion that timing and preparation is crucial. I underestimated the time needed to formulate research questions, gather data, and produce the research outcomes that I wanted. Although the outcomes were in my favor to an extent, I felt as if though they needed extensive revision. Although I was on the verge of a mental breakdown, I felt that it was worth it. It is similar to one of those experiences that give the feeling of success. Now that I have faced the worst, I think I can handle anything. This experience was worthwhile and I feel that the information obtained will be used throughout the remainder of my life. I would like to thank Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson for keeping her expectations high in order for us to succeed. This is the most work that I have put into a research project, and although it was stressful, I have learned a lot. Thank you.