Reflection on What I Have Learned

Abdurrahman Basa Alam

Northern Marianas College

Narrative Essay

Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson

December 6, 2013

English 101 is one of my least favorite subject. The reason why I favor it the least is because I found it really difficult. The amount of work given to us was difficult to complete due to the short amount of time we had. Unlike other classes, our class started a month later which gave us less time to work and learn. Despite the fact we started late, we were still able to learn many things such as how to write proper academic essays, how to conduct a research, and also how to write your own research paper with the findings from your research.

Writing essays has not always been my strong point. So imagine how it felt writing proper academic essays. To me it felt easier learning ten different math formulas than to learn one form of an academic writing. Although writing essays was one of my weak points I was able to learn a little with the help of a wonderful instructor Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson and also by reading "College Writing Skills with Reading" by John Langan. In class we wrote four different types of essays: Compare and Contrast, Process, Argumentative, and Illustrative essays. Despite it only being four essays, to me, it was as if the world was about to end.

All the essays that we had done had to be related to our research topic which we chose during the beginning of class. A research topic is a topic that each student had to pick and do research on. For my topic I chose "What are the different tells between local and foreign people?" In order for me to find answers to my topic I had to find books that were related to my topic to see and learn on what they did. I was lucky enough to find two books that were related to my topic which were, "Liespotting: Proven Techniques to Detect Deception" by Pamela Myer and "The Definitive Book of Body Language" by Barbara and Allan Pease. After that I created a survey regarding our topic and surveyed students from the other English classes. Then I conducted interviews with different people and found some interesting things.

The topic I chose was a really good topic but difficult to accomplish and create good findings in only a couple of weeks. I feel that working on further with the topic I chose would be a great idea but it would be easier with a partner because you can compare and share your findings. If we had more time I will stick to the topic I chose, but due to the short amount of time it would have been easier if I picked another topic. Despite the time being limited, I was still able to find many sources that I could easily work on. I mean the surveys we sent were fellow students which was not so difficult to get results from. I have a variety of local and foreign friends so it was really easy to conduct interviews. Even though my topic was really difficult, the sources were easy to get a hold of. The only major problem I had was poor time-management. If I could do everything from the beginning I would have manage my time more wisely.

The final step we had to do was to complete our research paper. In our research paper we included all the information and findings that we found from the surveys and interviews. We had to show any significant finding were made during our research. We also had to include an abstract, literature review, and steps on how we conducted our research. The research paper was the seal to all the hard work we did. After finishing my research paper it felt as if I had accomplished something really important.

This class was one of the hardest classes I have ever taken. Despite it being one of my least favorite classes I was still able to learn many new things. I am really thankful to all my classmates and Dr. Anderson for everything you have done for me. Everything I have learned will be able to help me achieve greater things in the future. Now I am more confident in my writing skills and I feel that I can pass all my English classes in the future.