John Pineda

EN101-ON

Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson

Reflection

 In the beginning of class I chose my topic on how Saipan began its recovery from the devastating Typhoon Soudelor, but have come to realize that that wasn’t the important issue that was really at hand. The important subject that seemed to capture me even more or worth more to write about was the damage to people and the help and assistance people were getting. It was a horrifying truth to know, but I am glad to have found out what was going on in the island.

 This class and the writing assignments given were definitely difficult for me because I am really not a strong and confident writer and we had to do it in APA style which made it even more difficult for me. But despite of all the challenging obstacles I had to face throughout the class, I tried my best to look for the information I needed to finish the work to the best of my ability, and in the process found out some things I never really knew about.

 In my final paper I wrote about the financial assistance and how people were getting help from FEMA, military personnel, and other groups. Many comments were definitely positive, but a lot were surprisingly negative. I found out about how people weren’t getting the help they actually needed to fix their homes and in my opinion, it is completely unfair to the residents of Saipan, some of which had to build their houses from scratch with just supplies they could find, and all of it was completely gone in one night. I couldn’t understand and comprehend why they weren’t getting the help they desperately needed just because they were Non-US citizens.

 Some people of Saipan were also not able to receive food stamps either because their salaries are too high. Which leads me to ask, what if they lost their jobs because of the typhoon, just because their check stubs show they make a certain amount of money means they can’t receive food stamps? It really didn’t make sense me. These people could have lost everything, but if that piece of paper was too much, they wouldn’t get the help they rightfully should’ve gotten, while other people still had their jobs and still could receive the assistance.

 This particular assignment was a complete eye opener, not only to the typhoon destruction, but the society we are in with its rules and policies, sometimes people with no heart. It was rough to ask people about the experience and processes they had to go through to get the help, some of which didn’t even receive help until a month later, and to many, that is a really late response time. The people of Saipan needed help, needed these organizations by their sides, but in the end disappointed many of our residents, and I hope they see the mistake and learn from it. Everyone experienced the power of Typhoon Soudelor, so everyone should’ve gotten treated equally. We are all one community and should be treated as such.