This research project was more challenging than I thought. I thought picking out a topic that could relate well to us would be a piece of cake, but it wasn’t. It was so time consuming especially with a person with time management issues. I had to balance out school, work, family, and friends and then trying to meet up with someone with a busy schedule preparing for the holidays and rebuilding their lives and homes after the typhoon was inconvenient for me to set interviews and complete this assignment. This was a very big area I needed to work on! I thought I had everything in control, and the time in my hands, but the semester flew by quickly, and here I am struggling to finish work and study for finals especially because APA format is something I’m not familiar with. In the first place, I had no clued what APA meant or what it was. I’m not too sure if I achieved writing in APA format, but I tried my best to prepare this project the right way. I can definitely use the skills I learned in this class, and as of right now, I am needed to write a report for work very similar to this, where I need to gather information, analyze, explain the steps I took, and everything else we needed to do for this project. So, I most definitely know that learning to write in APA format will benefit me in my future career and also my writing assignments for other classes. Yet, I know I will always forget the outline and maybe look it up when required.

My academic writing isn’t the greatest right now, and I feel I need so much improvement with my writing skills. Academic writing will be needed with my major, and I’m worried that I won’t be able to produce the greatest report my employer needs. Looking for literature is probably one of the challenging things to do, especially when you think everything you find is a great addition to your report, yet you’re only limited to a few literature sources. Then again, I know looking for literature will always be a part of every report I’ll have to do in my future career, in where literature is like an evidence to prove your research topic. During the process of completing this project, finding literature resources was challenging because you can’t really find anything “positive” that happened during or after the storm, it was all about the negative stuff that was being reported. I was down to taking literature from newspaper articles, yet I know they were legitimate academic literature resources; it was all I could find. I think choosing this research topic limited our literature resources because our research topic could only relate to us and not the entire world, in whereas; you could find so many literature resources on the web.

Textbooks and visual aids were the most helpful sources that helped me in academic writing and research. Textbooks were the most helpful because it came in handy. I didn’t have to open up my laptop and wait, in where I could just grab my textbook in my bag and flip through the pages. But, visual aids were also helpful because some of them had videos in where you can just watch and listen, not read and try to comprehend the reading. They also provided examples for you to follow or give you an idea. I found the optional handouts the least helpful because sometimes I don’t understand the idea that’s being said. Planning out to write an essay for each section was convenient, yet some people wait until the assignment is due and rush to complete the work, in results to having to write out a complete research essay consisting of four required essays in the final three or four weeks of the course. I preferred to have an essay for each section, but was also confusing to me because sometimes some essays don’t apply to your research question.

Writing about the positive experiences that Typhoon Soudelor came out a bit funny and relieving to some people, but I felt I chose a good topic. I’m an optimistic person, and I like it when people are hopeful and cheerful. We always have to balance the good with the bad. Since the storm, the community has been mourning the loss of their homes, cars, and belongings. They realize too late that they’re blessed to have a community who cares for them, who helps and supports them even if they have their own problems at home to worry about. They’re blessed to be alive and with their family. They might have lost their homes and belongings, but nothing hurts more than losing a loved one. I am happy and content with my research outcomes. I love seeing the smile on their faces when I tell them what my research topic is. When this happens, I laugh because they’re probably thinking that I’m crazy talking about positive experiences about a Typhoon that destroyed our home and left us devastated, but when they think about it, they realize there was actually positive experiences that did happen. Even with everyone’s busy schedule to get them to do an interview, I know I have accomplished this research paper. By completing this research paper, I feel I could do this for my major and other classes. I have credible knowledge to lead me into writing a good paper. I would like to learn other types of conducting research, in where I could find a simpler way of collecting data and preparing another research paper.