Reflection

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# Reflection

In this essay, I will be answering a list of questions provided for me on moodle by my Instructor for my reflection report. I will be answering questions that deals with my initial research project, how I’ve gotten better at writing, my troubles as well as how I see myself using the skills I’ve learned in class in my future.

In terms of how I feel about the topic I chose, in my opinion I feel that it’s a pretty good topic. Not a lot of people indulge themselves in really researching if their pets really do have an effect on you emotionally and mentally. I generally love taking deep dives in topics such as these, but if I had the choice to go further into this research, I would not. Why? Simply because I’m more focused on school, and researching on the topic on hand is more just for fun to me and I wouldn’t have selected any other topic because this is what I’m interested in the most.

My course essays was organized around my research project so that I could get plenty of practice writing on the topic and feedback as I did it. Also it was planned that each section should be used as a piece of my final report. I understand that some courses at the same level provide topics for the four required essays and then have the students write out a research essay in the final three or four weeks of the course. I personally prefer the first option, the option we were given during class and that’s to come up with our own topic and have all 4 essays surround that topic. I prefer the first option because it allows me to research, write, present and talk about something I feel passionate about and already have some knowledge on; pets and mental health. As oppose to something I will most likely not be interested in.

I was given time throughout the course to find literature sources for the final report. Some classes ask that I locate these and read them during the final four weeks of the course. I found all of my academic and non-academic sources on the internet and I honestly prefer finding my sources that way. Just having my sources in my laptop feels more time efficient and organized to me and I;m generally satisfied with the sources. I didn’t have many problems when finding my literature sources, but I did have many success, one of which was finding Journal Entries that are unbiased. The sources that were most helpful and useful to me were the academic sources, as it gives me solid information as opposed to the non-academic sources that are all biased and opinionated.

During the first half of the course I had a text book for my course and throughout the course I was given required, supplementary and optional handouts, along with some visual aids (powerpoints, audio materials and webdocuments and sites to read). There were many sources my professor has provided, but I’ve only found one the most helpful to me and that’s the Power Points my Instructor would show us and talk about. Because I’m the type of person who would rather be shown what to do and how to do them, I preferred my Instructor teaching me with her Powerpoints to show examples. The sources I had the most trouble with were the online websites and textbooks, it was just seemed like a lot to me, which is why I prefered the power points, as it gives me the important details of things. Some sources I wish we did was practice work, as opposed to just learning it and then getting straight to the activity. I feel that it would help further understanding.

In this course it was required that I learn at least four types of essays and a research essay plus practice summaries, quotations and paraphrases. I was also expected to provide support for my statements and use APA format. But I only felt like I’ve grasped just the general idea of them. Just enough to where I think I could write a mediocre essay in the future. I think I would end up doing just regular APA reports for my other classes. And as for my future career, I don’t think I will be writing a lot of essays, considering the fact that I’m an Early Childhood Education Major.

Thanks to this course, I’ve learned how to locate information on literature sources to support my essays in multiple ways, whether it’s just searching it up on Google or finding more literary sources in an electronic library. I’m confident that I can find a sources to serve as my support for future essays. I’m not too confident on my writing abilities to be able to write three different genres however, I think I would be able to do it if I looked back on previously written essays and use them as templates. I also believe that I’ve learned enough information about APA to be able to apply it in future classes when I’m asked and look up what is required. In terms of what I believe is a really strong writing skill to have and would love to get better at is Persuasive Writing.   
 In this class I was required to look for and analyze both academic and non-academic literature to inform and support my writing and data. This is a skill that I feel I would still use in future classes. Because this is college, I know that I will be writing a lot of essays for the next 4 years or so. So it’s good to retain the skill of analyzing literature to helps support my claims for future topics. Outside of school, I feel that I would be analyzing not just literature alone but also a lot of things like poems and music lyrics.   
 In this class, I was required to do primary research. If I was asked to do primary research in my major I think I would be able to do it. Because I would be working in the Education field, I would have to collect data such as, who rides buses home and to school or who walks from and to school. I feel that it would be pretty easy to do primary research in my major because it’s usually centered around a singular classroom. One type of research skill I learned was the electronic survey, which was one of my methodologies. Which seems to be the only methodology besides interviews that I see myself using in the future.   
 In regards to what my strengths and weaknesses are in the project. I know that one of my major strengths is Researching and Communicating, if I didn’t know how to do a certain thing I would most likely do some research on it and ask my peers on what their opinions are. One of the biggest assets I had during this course was my ability to be Organized and Time efficient. With a major paper submission, it’s really important to stay organized and sticking with a schedule in order to get things done efficiently and in an organized manner. As for my weaknesses, I’d say it would have to be having no power during half the time I was in class. It definitely made it harder for me to get some of my work done.   
 As for my Academic Writing Skills, I feel that I’ve improved a lot. One thing that I’ve gotten better at is being able to organize my Outlines and Brainstorm papers better so that I know what I want to put in my essay and what I don’t want in my essay. I also feel like I’ve been able to write my conclusions better, it was always something I had problems with for some reason. One thing I wish to get better at is writing my introductions, it’s usually the hardest part for me and I always want to write the most attention grabbing one liners to use as hooks. It was always something I get stuck on doing and I still do to this day.

As for the outcomes of my research, I’d say that I’m not the most satisfied with it. Because of Typhoon Yutu I was unable to conduct most of my experiments to collect all the data and answers that I wanted. I feel that I spent enough time thinking about my research question, interview questions and interview questions which makes things a lot more disappointing for me. However, this couldn’t be helped, and all the tools I needed were with me. The only thing I could do was adapt and adjust to things and come up with alternative ways to collect my data. Which wasn’t much. But it was something and I managed to collect some data.

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