

Christine Roque

EN101-ON01

Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson

Reflection

For my research topic I chose to do an event that happened in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on August 2, 2015, when Typhoon Soudelor swept across the island of Saipan leaving the place in ruins and many citizens helpless. I chose to highlight the topic of assistance that was provided after Typhoon Soudelor. I looked up nonprofit organizations that were available on island and had the most feedback from people all over the island or donated the most. I made an online survey for others to take regarding the assistance provided and also interviewed a few participants who were able to receive assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), American Red Cross, and the Nutritional Assistance Program (NAP).

I felt confident about the topic I chose because there was many information to collect, but just a matter of how to collect it given the fact that the island is still recovering from its losses and it was difficult to manage other people's time to get a few answers. I felt that it was a great topic because I know many people would have so much to say since many relied on assistance to get through after the typhoon. Many people were frustrated at how some organizations did their application process or how some organizations chose who should get what. The research was a whole ride of emotions that kept going back and forth. If I was given more time I believe I would have ended up with better results because people would have more feedback once the crisis is over and they are more stable. I am satisfied with the topic that I chose since I can relate to it,

being one of the few families who was able to receive some type of assistance from an organization.

While working on this essay and collecting information from different sources, I really preferred how I always spoke/wrote about the resources that I have because it shows me what I need more and what I do not need. It shows what resources I find to be of use in my research than others. Defining my sources helped me create my final research essay because I knew where to look for the information I need when I was writing up and finalizing my research essay. I ended up satisfied with the resources I collected since I found most of the information to be reliable. Even though newspaper articles are sometimes not the best sources, I thought for this research it was. There was no other place that updated the citizens of the island about the progress of typhoon Soudelor than the local newspapers. The local news assisted me by directing me where I can find more information about the organizations that were on island and assisting other people. Most of my literature resources started from the local newspapers.

Writing my research essay was a breeze due to the resources given out to us. The resource I found the most helpful in writing were the APA handouts and the PowerPoints. PowerPoints are straight to the point and easy to understand and go through. The APA handouts were my best friends since I was not familiar with the format and I heavily relied on it. I was hoping to see more sample essays because I tend to look for examples just so that I know what the instructor is specifically looking for in a paper. There are many examples available online, but I was not too sure which one would be best to use as a guide when I was conducting my research paper. Other than that, I can confidently say I did learn so much with the constant essay writing and continuously formatting my paper APA style. I believe I am doing well with my

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APA formatting for someone who just started using this format this year. I am glad that I was introduced to APA and now I am familiar with two different types of format.

With my acquired knowledge of writing various essays I must say that I have always been confident about my persuasive writing skills. I always believed it was one of my strengths and my weaknesses were research essays due to the amount of information that you need to provide and cite properly. Conducting this research essay assisted me in finding the importance in the information you choose to look into. I learned to look at sources that have information that can be used in more than one area in my research essay. I also learned to love surveys. I never realized how great the results are. Creating a survey was quite challenging in the beginning, but when I realized what information I wanted and when I figured out how to form it in a question where it was easy to answer everything went smoothly. I received responses that contributed well in my research essay. I plan to use this method in any other research essays that I have to do or if I have to create a survey in class, the website we used will come in handy!

Overall, I believe that I have taken a step forward in my academic writing. I am able to state ideas and be able to support it from various sources and cite it too. I know where to look for information and how to look for information. I learned how to disregard topics or questions that will prove to be no help in my paper. My research went better than I expected, but I still feel like there is more room for improvement. I still need to work on narrowing my topic and questions so I can receive consistent answers. After everything I have done in this class, I can surely say that I am proud of what I have accomplished and what I have created.