Michelle Li

EN 202-01

Reflection

 As a student who always wanted to major in something like international business, I always had this expectation that NMC could offer some new majors/degree programs in the upcoming future. That was the main reason why I chose the topic on the significance of higher education in diversity in this class, and I feel enthusiastic on exploring this topic. It may not be the best topic to have discussion on but I do see the potential benefits of discussing something like this, and I would definitely work with it further if I have the chance to, since education is one of the very few things that is able to change a person’s life and how that person may contribute to our society in a long run, and I am happy with what I had selected at the very beginning. This research project consists of distributing electronic survey to NMC students, conducting interviews with international students and immigrants, also seeking for professional feedback from experts in specific areas of expertise in which related to my topic. I have absolutely learned useful skills along the way as I put together the final report.

 The main point of starting this research project was to gather opinions and thoughts from different people, including NMC students, potential NMC international students, and immigrants who wanted to become NMC students, on the topic of whether or not NMC should offer more degree programs in the upcoming future. Because I had come across several NMC students ended up going to the States so they could major in something they were dreaming of, including me, who always hope that NMC could have variety of degree programs to offer since education and training are such a life changing paths. Also with the consideration for international students or immigrants who really wanted to obtain a college degree here but struggled a lot with English by self-studying, I think the offering of ESL training programs would be another great source to have on campus. Upon approval of my proposal on my project, I started to deliver electronic survey to NMC students to ask for honest opinions, conduct interviews with international students and potential immigrant students, and seek professional feedback from experts in different areas of expertise with questionnaire. I also did literature review on how more higher education investments can impact our society as a whole, so to better support my writing along the way. And I think this is a real skill that I may use in the future for putting together another research paper.

 Our course essays were organized around our research project so that we could get plenty of practice writing on the same topic, and each section was planned to be used as a piece of our final research report. This is the method I prefer since first off, we got to choose our own topic in which we can be passionate about, instead of getting assigned topics that we might lost interest at some point during the research. In addition, it was easier for us to put together the final report just like dealing with a puzzle, with small pieces of information added every class, therefore we are able to combine a clear picture without much of a hassle towards the end. Throughout the course, we were also given supplementary and optional handouts, along with some visual aids to read which were helpful to our reports. But the source I found to be the most helpful in learning about academic writing was the APA format tutoring videos, it really guides me step by step on how to write the report in a professional format that I barely had any knowledge on before.

 On the way of exploring my research topic, one of my strengths I see on myself was to come up with relatable and significant questions for my survey participants to answer. Upon reviewing all the answers provided, I can quickly get into the analyzing process in an effective way. However, the weakness I see that needs improvement throughout this project was that I struggled on finding relatable academic literature which could add values to support my points. It was a bit hard for me to correlate what I have found and what I wanted to express in words although I knew it was something that is essential in the report. Besides, being able to organize my schedule and plan ahead was definitely another big asset I have during this course, it is always a good practice as it can apply to real life by determine a specific goal and plan accordingly to achieve that goal.

 Overall, this course has taught me some great lessons on professional writings that I was pretty much unfamiliar with before. As I continued assessing the feedback and responses from all the participants for my final report, results seemed to come back positively as what I was expecting. Most people do think that there is a necessity of more degree programs and training resources being offered on campus as it means infinite possibilities and opportunities to both ongoing and future students. Therefore I feel rewarding about the research outcomes, and I feel that I have spent enough time thinking of the questions to asked, as well as preparing all the interviews and survey, along with adequate literature review as supporting points.