Reflection

Litulumar, Ryutaro

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Reflection

In this essay I’ll be responding to numerous questions that deal with the overall task for Essay 4. The questions will be regarding my struggles and triumphs during the activity. The difficulties I went through and how I got through them. I will also be explaining how I feel about the project and if there was anything I found insanely difficult.

Regarding my feelings about the topic I chose, I feel glad that I chose it. I’ve always been curious about this marijuana plant as to how and why it is considered a drug when technically it’s an herb. Not a lot of people know the specifics, the origins, and what this plant can do to ones self so by doing this specific research I will take the knowledge that I’ve obtained and share it with them. I definitely would like to continue working on this project because it really is educational to the people around me. I am fond of sharing unknown knowledge and educating people on it.

My project was organized as neatly as I can make it with all the research and feedbacks pertaining partial insight of the main topic. My topic was difficult to narrow down at first but with a little help it was narrowed as far as it could, but still felt slightly broad. I understand that some courses provide topics for the four required essays and then make the students write out an essay in the last three or four weeks of the course. I personally like the first option, the option we were given in class by our instructor in first week. We were told to have a topic of our choosing and have all four of the essays surround that topic. It was much easier to accomplish since it was a topic I chose, a topic that I had basic knowledge about and was interested in expanding that knowledge even further.

We were all given time throughout the entire course to look for literature sources for our topic. I found all of my academic and non-academic sources online and it truly was easier. Having to surf the internet looking for literature sources was the most efficient way I could’ve think of. Looking for sources weren’t hard but choosing the right ones was a pain. There were just so many good one and too many to choose from. I had hard time narrowing down my possibilities. But in the end, success triumphed and I found all that I needed. I found newspaper articles, journal entries, doctors’ interviews, etc. all was non-biased. Whichever source it may be, academic or non-academic; I couldn’t have done this research without them. They were both full of useful information that I didn’t think I’d need.

Since the beginning of class I had a book for the course and I was given required supplementary and optional handouts along with some visual aids. My instructor provided so many sources throughout the course but I found the Power Points to be most helpful. It was easier to learn that way, while my instructor goes through the Power Point she’ll be giving examples and at the same time we could be asking questions. The source that I had most difficulty with is the online sites and textbooks, it was too much and to top it off I don’t have immediate access to internet at home so it was a lot harder.

While this course required us as students to learn the 4 types of essay writing and practice summaries, quotations and paraphrases, etc. I do strongly believe that I accomplished at least that. I know there was more that I could’ve done but do to some unexpected circumstances I was unable to achieve it to the fullest. I was taught so many in this course that it definitely would be useful in the future. The knowledge that I gained would be put to use sooner or later. But as I am aiming to major in Engineering, I doubt that I’m going to be writing a lot of essays. Even if I do, it’d probably be either an informal essay or maybe a reflection.

This course has taught me many things but one that’ll I remember is how to locate information sources to support my essays in multiple ways. I’ve always hated backing up my information; it was just too much extra work. Although this course taught me how to do so and in return it was actually less work. Now for sure I can say that I am confident in finding sources that’ll back up my research. Writing an academic essay in three different genres is far too much of a stretch for me. It’s enough my ability to write an essay goes only so far as to writing whatever comes to mind. Not even if I looked back at old documents I still wouldn’t be able to write an essay in three different genres. But one thing is for sure, I’d love to sharpen my skill in writing persuasive essays as well as literature essays. Basically writing an essay in general is my weak point.

I was assigned to look for and analyze both academic and non-academic literature to support my research. I am pretty sure that I’d still be using this later on in the future whether it’s in classes or career wise. Gladly I can practice this specific writing skill for the next 2 years or so because I sure do need the practice. But like I once said, writing and anything literature related isn’t really my forte so I’ll try and work hard so it doesn’t remain my weak skill.

If I was asked to do primary research on my major, I’m pretty sure I’d be able to do it. I mean it is do-able but the kick start would be the hard part. I wouldn’t know how to start a primary research on electronic engineering. Electronic engineering isn’t my major now but it is the major I was trying to aim for but NMC didn’t have engineering courses. One particular research skill that I learned was the electronic survey. It’s very simple to create an online survey, easy to share and get feedback.

In regards to my strengths and weaknesses towards the project, I’d say my strength was researching and using the full extent of the internet to gather all sorts of data for my research. In school I had numerous ways to access the internet and one of them was through a friend. I was really fast when it came to gathering info and collecting data online. But my weakness was putting it down on paper and presenting it. I could sometimes be unorganized and so my data would be scattered and when it’s time to put it on paper even I get confused on the order. Another weakness would be time management, I spend all my time gathering all this data but when I have to sort it and put in a single document I realize I don’t have much time so I have to seclude some data from what I originally collected.

Regarding my Academic Skills, I feel that I’ve improved greatly from when I first started. I got better at Outlines and Brainstorms, or I’ve always been fond of organizing my data through outline but my instructor taught me a different way of outlining and it was way quicker. With my outline being fair and square, when I transfer it onto a draft sheet it also comes out well. I still hate writing introductions and conclusions, I always skip them and go straight for the body first then later think about how to write the beginning and the conclusion.

The outcome of my research is miraculous, or so I’d like to say. I definitely wasn’t satisfied with it but at least I got what I needed. Due to the recent Super Typhoon Yutu, the plan that I’ve constructed throughout the whole semester was ruined. My plans to interview, observe, and give hardcopy surveys. More than half of the plan was canceled because the typhoon. Although, I somehow managed to pull through with just the online survey that was distributed beforehand which concluded my whole research project.

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