

Reflection

During the duration of my English 202 course, I learned about art. Yes, I learned about art in an English class. How? I learned about it through my research paper. Art, or specifically art in the community, was my research topic for my second research paper. As someone who is highly interested in and passionate about the arts, the topic was something I looked forward to delving in to. It was a very favorable topic as well. During my first experience of writing a research paper, an umbrella topic was assigned, which put a damper on all the fun. However, my desired topic wasn't the only highlight about my paper. There were other highlights too, like the mass of information on my topic, challenges that came along during data collection, and the results of the data acquired.

Firstly, I was amazed at all the information and other categories available that were related to the topic. I thought I knew a good amount of information, but, there was an entirely new encounter in relation to different perspectives on the arts and arts value. For example, there were many views that were for the arts and against the arts. As someone who is for the arts, the negative side was a side that was interesting to look at. The negatives included things like budget cuts and funding for the arts, and questions if art was actually beneficial. There was also mass information on how the arts affected the brain and the science behind the relationship of the two. It was overall very interesting to see how much science went into art, and vice versa. Learning new things about my topic is something that was of course expected, but at the same time unexpected, since it was totally new information.

Another thing that was slightly unexpected was the new challenges that came up with data collection. During my first research paper, the only challenge I had with data was analyzing the data due to the fact that my survey questions were open-ended questions. In contrast, the survey I made for this research was composed of multiple choice questions. Thus, the challenge was posed not in analyzing the results but in distributing the survey and accumulating responses. This was because I had a sudden schedule change and burst of activities that came in at the same time, in which I became limited to the amount of time I could spend collecting data. I did collect a sufficient amount, though I do wish that I was able to collect more responses with a more diverse demographic. For example, I was able to collect a sufficient amount of data from peers and older adults, but barely any data from children. Since art is something that everyone can relate to, it was unfortunate to not be able to get any input from children, who in my opinion, take part in art the most (naturally/for the fun of it).

Lastly, the results of the data acquired were as equally interesting as the new information that I learned about the topic. As an artist, I knew a fair amount of people in the art community. Since my survey was distributed to artists and non-artists alike, all the viewpoints were anything but boring. For example, those who didn't take part in art creation still held interest in arts, and those who had art as a career had fruitful visions for the future of the CNMI art community. It also surprised me to see how many art professionals were in the Saipan community that were not

working in the arts professionally. It was also surprising to see how much people valued arts as well. It seemed to me that there is so much talent and interest in the arts but the lack of anything pertaining to art in our community just leaves everyone without a creative outlet.

Overall, this research paper was another great writing experience. The first research paper had its quirks and difficulties, and so did this second paper. But both papers served me well as I learned more about and improved my academic writing. The highlights of this second paper were the new information I learned about my topic, data collection challenges, and the results of research which were high value of art in the community. As an artist, I am hoping for a professional career in the arts. But as an artist who grew up in a rather art-lacking community, I would hope to be able to use this small scale research somehow in my career in the future.