

REFLECTION

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As a full time student and employee, this project was not as easy as I thought it would be. It was big challenge balancing out school, work, family, and the time to collect data to support my research. The challenge had been tough, but in the end very bittersweet. I found the method of the course essays given out throughout the semester very beneficial to my final research project. This method had come out very useful in the end because it made my final research project easy to put together. All I had to do in the end was plug in parts of my old essays, or add them in to the new information I had collected. I found all the time we were given throughout the course to find literary sources very beneficial as well. This method was useful because finding academic sources on a topic based on the CNMI was very difficult. The elections being held around the world are much more significant than the ones being held here in our islands. In addition, we too do not have much academic literary sources on the insights of our government. Although it would have been awesome to find more academic sources specifically on our islands, the academic sources I had located about other municipal elections like ours were just as equally good. They answered the questions that I had, and filled in the blanks to the missing areas in my research essay.

I am confident that I have achieved my goals in writing essays in APA style with quotations, citations, and paraphrasing. At first it was definitely a struggle. I was not familiar to writing in APA style and had never really had an assignment that required me to write in its format, so I am very pleased to have learned just that in this course. There are many things that I have learned about APA that I could apply on to my future classes and career, for example, citations in my future science classes, or quotations in my future history classes. I know I can write many other research projects because I now have the credible knowledge of conducting research and finding literature sources. I do feel like I need more practice in my body paragraphs with grammar and mainly with supporting details in my sentences, but it is something I am able to improve later in the future.

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Visual aids had been very useful throughout my project as well. Visual aids are much easier to comprehend when I find myself confused because they provide examples and instructions. I am glad that you had given us many visual aids. The textbook came in handy as well. It was a resource that I could pull out and take a look at when I had zero access to the internet or to the Moodle website. I am positive that locating and analyzing research will come up again, but I do feel that the techniques I learned in this class will be to my advantage. Overall, I feel that all that I have learned in this class in regards to conducting research and writing in APA style will benefit me tremendously in the future. I have also improved in my academic writing, I am more aware of what needs to be in an essay, how to create a good thesis, and what is irrelevant and relevant in an essay.

“The Importance of Voting in the CNMI” was actually a very difficult topic. I thought it was going to be easy because election season was up and voting would be on everyone’s minds, but I do not regret choosing it and taking on its challenge. Although I had not received feedback from the government officials that I chose, I was still successful with this project thanks to the cooperative people who volunteered to be a part of my project. People often forget how important voting is, and how voting will either mold or shred our island apart. The people we vote for are in control of the money we have, the public health we benefit from, and the schools that we send our little siblings, or our children to. The people I had interviewed all mentioned public school system issues and the safety of our island. I was surprised that not one of the people I interviewed brought up the issues of the casino or the casino at all. I found it amusing when I would introduce my research topic to people and they’d have a blank look on their face. Aside from relatives pushing them to vote for people, no one really had a quick answer for me. I’m glad that my research question opened up their mind about the importance of voting and had actually inspired one to go out and register to vote. Even with roadblocks to getting feedback from experts, I know I had accomplished this project. By completing this research assignment, I not only know how to put together valuable

information, but I also have an abundance of knowledge on how to write a good paper. I am definitely interested in learning new styles on conducting research.