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Class Reflection

At the beginning of this whole research project journey, the hardest thing for me to do was choosing a topic to write about; it always is when writing any essay. However, with the help of *The Curious Researcher: A Guide to Writing Research Papers* and with guidance from our instructor, I started to think about the ideas or things that I took some interest in. While glancing down at my book I saw my cell phone sitting there on my desk and the “light bulb above my head” started to light up. I started to think about how I am when it comes to my cell phone then I wondered, “How many hours do I spend on my cell phone throughout the day?” and that is how I came up with my topic.

However, I can’t just do a research project about myself and my cell phone so I wondered about the rest of the students here at Northern Marianas College. I also wondered how many hours do they spend on their cell phones throughout their day. I kind of had second thoughts about this idea because most research topics are about technology and such, but mine specifically dealt with the students here on campus and their cell phone usage while highlighting their reasons for it, as well, so I just went with it. I also thought it would be interesting to compare cell phone usage between NMC students and other students outside the islands. So I decided that I was going to conduct a survey and compare the results with other recorded data that I could find.

Throughout the semester, I really liked the idea of writing each portion of my research paper as an individual essay and at the end, I could just piece it all together. Starting off with the persuasive essay, literature review, methodology, etc., it really helped me a lot because just the thought of a large research project worried me. I also really liked the fact that we had to do reading notes as an assignment because it actually really helped me with the number of literature sources I had to read. Another lesson that I thought was beneficial, was the fact that I learned how to properly write an academic summary, an abstract, and to just basically learn all the basics I need to know about APA formatting.

As a student researcher, I honestly believe that one of my strengths was the writing process of this whole thing, however I also have some weaknesses. Some of them include researching, itself. I always have a hard time finding the right, reliable sources that cover my topic. Another weakness is that, while writing, summarizing, or paraphrasing, I’m afraid that it might still be counted as plagiarism. And the last of all weaknesses, is procrastinating (every student’s best friend); however, I think that I have improved if not fully, then at least improved a little from all of the weaknesses I have just stated above.

At the end of this research project journey, I did not receive the amount of participants I wanted for my survey; sadly, it was unsatisfying for me because I felt like this research project could have been better with more participants. However, I don’t think I should continue on with this project. I feel as if someone with more expertise on technology or cell phones itself should conduct a project like this here in the CNMI because I couldn’t find much on the topic or at least something related to it, that dealt with our hometown.