Reflection

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Author Note

This paper was prepared for English 101, Section ON011, taught by Kimberly Anderson.

English Composition 101 is a required course that one must take and pass in order to further their education in college. I took the course knowing that it will require a whole bunch of reading and writing. I knew it would be a challenge but I had faith in myself. It is a course that was designed to help students develop and design formal academic research reports following the guidelines which is important. It also helped me express my ideas clearly. Because I have not taken an English course for about nine years, this course helped me in so many ways. I learned how to apply the APA format on my essays, how to construct a research report and how to build a survey.

English 101 helped me become a better writer. The course helped me understand the writing process a bit more clearly. I can’t recall of my time in high school where I was required to write a research essay using the APA format. In my opinion, in order to make a formal paper the paper should be in APA format. From what I remembered, an essay only consisted of five paragraphs which includes an introduction, three main points and a conclusion. I learned that a research essay in APA format must have a cover page, running head, literature review, resources cited, references, etc.

The topic I focused on for the research assignment was on “Island Living”. I wanted to write about how the island life would benefit people or not. In the beginning, I thought this topic would be an easy one for me to find sources on. As, I began to work on required assignments to get to the final paper, I noticed that the topic I chose was a difficult one. I was assigned to set up a survey relating to the topic I chose. I had to focus on questions that would help me prepare for the final essay. I came up with a couple of questions but after surveying it out to my classmates, I got some positive and negative feedback. Some said that my topic was interesting and that I was right on course while others said that I needed to revise my survey relating the questions more on the environment of the island. I then tweaked my questions a bit and sent out the survey once more. I got some feedback once again and this time around I was told that I was on the right path.

I learned that it was really difficult to find answers based on Saipan. I wanted to change my topic but then realized that I was too far in the semester to start over again. I tried my best to write my paper based on the resources that I have found online and added my knowledge as well. Like I mentioned earlier, this was the first time I was given an assignment that had to do with researching. I didn’t know what I was getting myself into in the beginning but I am proud to say I learned from my mistakes.

After learning many important information from this course, I can say I am more confident in myself and my writing. I know there are many things I could have done better but the important part is that I completed the assignments that were given to me on time. I think that I would have to better plan everything out from the beginning before focusing on one topic. Also, I learned to be sure that there is enough evidence to support my writing and that there are enough resources to look from. This class gave me the time to practice my writing skills and be able to apply what I learned on paper.

This course had many requirements due within a week. Because I am a full time student, a full time employee and a full time mother of two, it was difficult for me to manage my time. I found myself being stressed out at all times but I learned things in life get hard and I should never give up. I would definitely recommend this course to others because I felt the instructor was really helpful and understanding. Not only was she always available to answer my questions, she gave out many resources for me to use. The resources were a great help throughout the process.