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EN 202-1

Reflection

I am a student of the Northern Marianas College, taking English Composition II for Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson. For the class, students had to do a research regarding Typhoon Soudelor. I, came up with the research question; What are the effects of Typhoon Soudelor on people’s lives? I felt that the research question was a good topic; however, I don’t think I would work with further. In some ways, I wish I would’ve have chosen a different topic. But this topic was fine, the only problem that I had was working with these respondents and the interviewees. Some of the respondents were just not on the same page with me, and a few of them just quickly filled out the survey just to be done with it.

For this specific course and instructor, we wrote essays that would in turn, be parts of our final research paper. I actually like this method. I like this method because of the fact that you are like killing two birds with one stone. At the same time, you have the whole semester work on your research paper instead of it being three to four weeks, little by little and parts by parts of the research. By the end of the semester, you only have a small part of the research left to complete which to me, I think it’s great. Also, when I say that it saves time, I mean you don’t have to keep looking for different sources for four different essays. The sources that I found for my research, was the same academic sources that I used throughout the end of the semester.

Regarding sources, I really like the APA handouts and power point that the instructor gave us. It was really helpful. It was a source that I often refer to when I needed assistance, especially on the format regarding of writing an academic research paper. From these sources learned, it is easier for me now to locate other sources in less time than expected. This writing class has taught me how to write formal, academic papers which I am pretty sure that I can use later in the future. Although I really liked this method and everything worked out in the end, I found some of my weaknesses. One of them is being totally frustrated when scheduling interviews or surveys but can’t due to respondents or interviewees being so busy. I learned now, that even though it may not look promising; just have faith because you never know what can happen in the end. When I started scheduling my interviews while they keep canceling, I started to become frustrated and paranoid that I may not be able to finish my research paper in time. I have also learned that when writing research papers, it is not wise to procrastinate because it may cause a lot of stress and headaches.

Overall, I believe that my writing has improved big time. I am now confident and comfortable writing academic research papers, especially in APA format. This is my second time taking this instructor for writing. Regarding the outcomes of my research, it may not have been satisfying but I believe that’s how it works. When doing research, you don’t always get the answer you expected.