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EN101-ON01

Reflection

Throughout my whole English composition course experience, I have felt a whole lot of mixed emotions. I have felt confused, grateful, regretful, and for the most part, stressed out. Do I regret the topic I chose? Somewhat. Choosing the topic of teenage beauty pageants sounded really interesting, but trying to relate it to our community was pretty difficult. The process of my whole research had its ups and downs, but I found my way to the final exam.

In the beginning, I thought of the idea to do a research project about children’s beauty pageant and what effects it had on the contestants. It was interesting and different from other topics like “The causes of drug and alcohol abuse” or “Is abortion right or wrong?” During week two, I realized that my topic needed to be related to our community. In this case, I had to switch my topic idea of children’s beauty pageant to teenager’s beauty pageants. Saipan has never had a pageant for children, only pageants for teens and older such as Miss Teen Marianas and Miss Marianas. I did not want to abandon my work and restart on everything.

The online sources that I have collected (articles) were filled with lots of information that I implemented in my paper, but as I thought about the raw sources, or secondary sources that I needed, it was a bit of a challenge. I already had a plan to interview teenagers who have experienced competing in the pageants that our island has organized. In addition, I thought that being a witness of the whole process of a pageant was one advantage for me, which will allow me to easily interview contestants that I have worked with. Although, people in our community believe that pageants are all fun, I had the chance to interview a past contestant who participated in Miss Teen Marianas, years ago. She mentioned a few downfalls that she has encountered during the time, and this was the information I needed to support my research. On the other hand, I conducted a survey for students in our college, but most of the responses I received were based on what they believed, and my goal was to showcase the outcomes of teens beauty pageants.

Based on my research, I have learned that teens and children who join beauty pageants differ in many ways, but both age groups share similar ideas. I learned that pageants can impact a young woman so bad, that they can resort to unusual consequences such as gaining weight when not winning the title, or constantly use drugs to relieve stress. With this research, I can find solutions to be an advocate for stopping the sexualization of girls and help manage beauty pageants appropriately.