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**Reflection**

I most definitely enjoyed researching and finding out a lot about the topic I chose. For me, I would consider it a good topic and I would not mind working on it further. I am happy with the topic I chose because I can most definitely relate to the topic. I personally went through one of my parents using the drug which resulted to a broken family, however, I believe it was good thing that it happened.

 I preferred being able to write essays that we could use prior to completion of the research report because it did make things easier for us. All we had to do was update information and change some words up and we were able to put it right into our actual research report. It saved us a lot of time and helped us complete our research report faster. I found it really disturbing though that on top of having to write other essays in class and yes, it did have to deal with the research project, but on top of that we were responsible for locating literature sources as well. I think it should have been done one step at a time. We should have been given time to just focus on the essays and then be required to locate literature sources after we were done. Instead, we were just bombarded with so many different assignments that were not easy to keep up with. While I was satisfied with the sources I located, it took a lot of research. It took time to locate good and qualified sources, but in the end, they were very helpful. The examples and visual aids provided to us were most definitely helpful. Sometimes it just helps to be able to see an example of how something should be done. I did not find the book so helpful though because we could just look on the web if we needed help with academic writing or resources.

In my other composition class, we were required to use MLA format for all the essays we wrote. In this 202 class, we were required to use APA format. It was interesting to learn that there are different essay formats out there because they really are very different from each other. I think I did achieve the skills on both APA and MLA because we had to write a couple of essays which allowed us to have more practice using the formats. I learned enough about APA formatting to be able to use it in different classes. However, there are many APA formats, so again, it would depend on the instructor’s requirements. I believe APA and MLA are the only essays used in college, so learning how to work with both formats will most definitely make it easier for me to complete future writing assignments. I think we will be required to do both formats in particular, no saying with who or what subject because all teachers have different requirements.

I think finding and locating information/literature as support is a pretty simple skill. You should just know the difference between academic and non-academic. I think it is pretty much a common sense type of skill, so I think anyone should be able to find and locate sources for support. Almost anyone who writes an essay or report should need to locate sources in order to provide enough information about the topic. I think I find it easy for me to organize the essay, like keep the essay flowed and organized. I hope to develop a more complex writing language. I want to work on changing up my wording in some essays. I believe that not only in school, but in anyone’s job or future job, they will be required to give speeches or presentations once in a while. I think learning how to analyze literature and put it in our research report taught us how to look at information clearly and decide which is worth putting in your report and which is not. I believe I will use this skill in the future because everything we present about or everything we write about should be support by some sort of literature. The support of literature should come with the skills of being able to analyze data.

I believe if I was asked to conduct primary research in my major, it would be the same as conducting research for any other class. With my major, we are required to always use APA format and provide background support, so I believe I will be able to manage. I learned that it is important to locate literature sources, read it, analyze it, and then determine which information should be used and which should not.

I would say my strengths in the process of completing this project was the fact that I was able to think of sources both on and off-island and get responses from more than half of the people I contacted. Also, locating literature sources was pretty easy, however, it did take a lot of research. I think having a major paper submission was more of an area to work on for me because I tend to think that I will always have time to do it later. Whenever I have work assignments that are due way before any major assignment, I would only focus on what needs to be done first. I always think and say that I will always have time to do the assignment, which leads to delaying the start of the other assignment. I feel like I’m still the same, like my writing has not improved or it was not gotten bad. I would say that I only need to improve is how I plan things. I need to work on getting things done early, even if it means I’ll be done before the actual due date. I feel like I did an average job. I did not do great, I did not do bad, I did an ‘okay’ job. Like I said earlier, I just need to work on the skills of getting things done in a timely manner. I tend to hold things back a lot and I do not know whether it’s due to the fact that I have a full-time job or I just feel like it can always be done later. All things considered, it was a great experience and I hope to find these skills useful and improve my writing skills as time goes on.