Reflection of Yijia Zhao

I feel my EN202 research topic which was about the 2016 U.S. presidential election was a good, important, and interesting topic. I chose this topic because it was the one of the most significant events that happened in 2016. I would love to work with this topic further, because even though the 2016 U.S. presidential election had passed, the concerns with immigration reform and climate change continued especially here in the CNMI. I was satisfied with the topic I chose at the beginning of this school year, and I would not choose a different topic, because I personally think both immigration reform and climate change are significant issues for me.

I liked how the course essays were part of the research project. It really prevented me from procrastinating and helped me get feedback from peers and instructors after finished with each class essays. The whole process became easier, because at the end of this semester, I just compiled and revised the class essays to integrate these essays into my final research paper. Doctor Kimberley told us at the beginning of this semester that each essay we wrote in class should be related to the research report except the cause and effect essay. It really made our life easier. Compared to some other courses at the same level which provide topics for the four required essays and then have the students finish a research essay in the last few weeks, I prefer Doctor Kimberley’s method.

I found that giving time throughout the course to find literature sources for the final report was really helpful. I am satisfied with the sources I found on Ebscohost and in the NMC library. I did not experience any problems during the process of finding the literature sources. I found the most helpful sources are located on Ebscohost. I would recommend this website to other future researchers.

I found the handouts Doctor Kimberley sent us through email really helpful, especially the template/guidelines to write an academic essay. I followed the template when I was writing the four required essays to make sure I did not miss any important information. However, I found that the textbooks were not very helpful, because we rarely used it.

Throughout the course, I learned a lot of basic information about the APA formatting. I can definitely use this skill I learned in this course to write essays in the future. I think academic writing in APA format will be required in English and any other classes, also in my future career.

This course helped me use the sources available both online and in the library. My strongest writing skill is process essay. I can explain my methodology used in my research step by step. I hope I can improve my skills on writing the cause and effect essay, because I got a lower grade on that paper. I think I still need to look up some reference information on the APA handbook provided if trying to cite some sources. I found that the skills of finding and analyzing literature to support my writing was important and I learned how to do that in this course.

If I am asked to do primary research, like interviews, surveys, and questionnaires, in my major, I think I am able to do it. In the future, I would like to learn how to conduct experiments and observation for future research report in other classes and future career.

I think my strength was collecting data because I really enjoyed the data collection process and collected lots of valuable information. My weakness was writing academic essays. I often had grammar, article, and tense errors in my essay, and I would like to work on in the future. Being able to organize my schedule and plan ahead are essential skills in school and in life. I think this is one of my assets.

I have improved my academic writing during the course. I would like to learn more about how to conduct other study on other research topics. My research outcomes were expected and I feel that I spent enough time thinking of the research questions I asked, the methods I utilized, and the data I collected.