

Self Assessment

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ENG 21002

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May 15th, 2025

Throughout the course of this semester I can truly say that my writing has seen major improvements. As a person who never enjoyed writing and research, I can say I feel confident in the work I have done and grateful for the skills they have instilled in me. During the semester I went through many different processes, strategies, and understandings on writing which helped me develop my pieces eventually growing off of each previous work.

My first module being a Transcultural interview was my foundation for my growth. This module focused on interviewing a person based on a topic of my choice to understand how a person's cultural background affects their perspectives and worldviews. Throughout this module I had around four artifacts leading to my understanding of cultural influence on a person's perspectives. Those artifacts were Subject Description, Interview Questions, Interview Transcript, and the Transcultural Interview Essay & Commentary. The Subject Description was the more simpler part of this module as it only required me to explain who I was interviewing, what I am looking for, and what I plan on doing during the interview. However it has played a role in my ability to formulate a stance in my writing by setting up a main focus for my interviewee which focuses on course learning outcome number 6 in this course. My main focus helped me build my Interview Questions, which was the next step, by allowing me to ask questions to keep the interviewee engaged whilst focusing on their concerns for my topic. So as an example I would ask questions about how safe a specific country is by asking questions like “how often do you roam the streets of this country” or “is there any concerning events going on that you know of”. My Interview Transcript was later built off of an execution of my interview questions. The Interview Transcript has to be the most important part of the module for me as it helped me overcome a struggle of writing for my goals. The problem was that during my interview with the interviewee this person has said some things that do sound ignorant and has

beliefs that the blame falls on a specific group of people. I wanted to argue against this but realizing my focus and the information I need hasn't been presented yet I had to put aside my thoughts and focus specifically on how the interviewee feels and thinks so I can have a smooth interview not an argument. This was part of course learning outcomes number three. I feel that I have developed in this area because I had to understand what I was writing for and realistically put my pride to the side. My final part of this module was the Transcultural Essay. This assignment helped me both formulate a stance and understand writing for an audience by combining the main findings through the interview, thus I was able to focus solely on my interviewee through writing about his experiences, no side tracking, no what I think, just his experiences.

My second module was writing a piece off of Field Observation. This module required me to do field work on an online community and observe people's interactions, behavior, and demeanor with each other. The goal was to understand and analyze an online community while keeping myself completely separate from the conversation. For this module I had four artifacts which helped develop my understanding of field work. Similar to my previous module I started off with a subject description which gave a general rundown of what my topic is, what I will be analyzing, what comparison/contrast am I making and why it is relevant to society. The online community I chose to research was an online parenting community to see how parents interact with each other about the struggles of parenthood. My subject description changed when compared to the first one because now this one started to hold aspects of a research paper. This subject description elaborates on how parents communicate their stress and anxiety to each other while my first subject description was a summary of the individual I was interviewing. This focuses tremendously on course learning outcome number two as I enhance my strategies of

drafting through a process document like this which builds a basis of where I will start my research and how I will analyze that community. The next step after subject description was field notes. This is where I recorded events, conversations, advice and ideas brought up by thorough people in the community. So I would occasionally look at what parents are going through and how they communicate their situations in a document organized by days and time. This piece was almost a draft for my final essay and it required me to do a lot of back and forth when looking at the online community. On top of this I had to do outside research to compare the ideas of parenting through parenting organizations to an online community of experienced and inexperienced parents. This relates to course learning outcome eight as I had to strengthen my source through the use of analyzing this online community's experiences to that of a parenting guide while comparing and contrasting strategies/methods parents are using in real world scenarios. After this I had peer review on my first draft. The peer review helped me breakdown my draft which led me to understanding a common problem. This is more summary than analysis in my piece. Most of my paper had summaries of the experiences the parents went through in the community which isn't what I needed. Also I had a lot of my own opinions in there which needed to be removed and revised. This relates to course learning outcome number 4 of the semester as I had to collaborate with others in my class to build off of my draft rather than just editing, it needed more research which I found out through the use of switching my piece multiple times with others. The last part of this module was the final essay. My understanding of field working grew from here because I was able to put myself in a scenario where I wasn't sharing my thoughts but rather the experiences of others that are being shared online. I was able to evaluate the struggle of parents through continuous research and proper analysis.

The final module was the Literature Review and Multi-Modal Translation. This was by far the hardest part of the semester for me as it required continuous research. This module required me to narrate the argument of research on a social, political, economic, or cultural issue that interests me. After that I had to translate this paper into a new medium to target my audience and keep them engaged. The first document I had to complete for this module was an Annotated Bibliography. I chose to do a literature review based on the historical effects of climate change and how this impacted society currently. The Annotated Bibliography gave me an understanding of the documents I was researching. I had to keep looking through each source and breakdown the important aspects of that source which was relevant to my topic. I was able to break down the three documents into focusing on cultural diversity, political agendas and mental health issues which were caused by climate change. If anything my research analysis skills developed even more due to the fact that this assignment had me revising my sources constantly. This relates back to course learning outcome two and eight as I had to sift through my sources constantly to get accurate information that I can base my points off of. Once completed I moved on to the literature review and broke my review down into sections of an Abstract, Introduction, Summary of Findings, Discussion and Evaluations, Commentary, and Conclusion. Even though my Literature review was its whole own assignment, it felt more of an outline for my Multi-Modal Translation. My MMT was based on my Literature Review but presented differently. I decided to present my Lit Review through the use of slide presentations which went really well. I used canva to make the slides visually appealing however what made it s success was how relatable the topic can be to everyone. I know that since my class was filled with many freshmans it was able to correlate climate change to humans. I was able to communicate how often we don't think about and create a conversation based off of personal experiences with climate change that

allowed others to join in. This was the overall goal of the Lit Review, you don't want to just write a narrative argument and do research you want to captivate an audience's attention instilling an understanding of what's being presented in front of them. This is basically course learning outcome number five where I am able to analyze my own piece and translate it into a way where a public audience can understand what I am saying.

This course overall has been great and it developed my writing in three main ways. The first one being my ability to break down documents, sources, people, etc and analyze the information presented. This is an ability I was struggling with in high school as I had written more summaries than analysis but now I feel strongly about being able to read a source and understand pieces of information that serve the purpose of my topic. The second way is that this course taught me to put my own feelings and thoughts to the side. This understating is influenced by the goal of my writing which is to acquire information and present that information in a way that my audience can understand. Finally this course pushed me to keep revising my work. With every assignment I noticed that my work can always be better and it will never be perfect. However I can always fix and keep editing my work until I create a piece that answers all aspects of the assignment but enough to be presented to others. My writing has changed in many ways and I can only hope it grows from here.