

# Self Assessment Essay

Tens of assignments, hundreds of drafts and thousands of ideas later the semester is finally coming to an end. When I signed up for this class I was uncertain about what it was going to entail but excited for it regardless. Even though it was a short span of time I feel like I have gained a lot from my time in this class. Choosing just some of them for this essay is a task in itself but here we go.

My first and most significant learning in this class was related to letting my authentic self shine. I have been fond of writing since I was a kid and was also told that I am a good writer but that I write as if it's a speech. I honestly never found any problem with it as I think that makes my writing style more interesting. I write for myself and write what I would like to read. Throw a joke here and there, some obscure reference or going on a whole new tangent separate from the actual topic. My writing never fits into the standard English protocol. This class allowed me to stop trying to forcefit it in that box and kill what's the special component in it. Rather I was able to explore and play with. I used self made memes as my DIY visual aid. Here are some of my favourite ones

Politicians realising that more and more people are growing acceptance of dictators



European countries watching the world getting swayed by authoritarian leaders



I have played these games before!

Citizens after realising the all powerful leader they happily voted and advocated for will use his power against their interests



I didn't just stop there. I titled my Op Ed article as something not so professional but something intriguing which I would click on . I titled it “ Here's why you might be a fascist pig” and wrote lines like “ No, most of us don't fanboy Adolf Hitler ( Kanye being an exception)” as a segue.

My second biggest learning is correlated to my first learning, using multimedia elements to enhance my storytelling or writing in general. I used memes, statistics, bar graphs and linked my quotes or claims to my sources, highlighted to enrich it further as well as to make it more credible.

Over the course of this semester I had to write countless drafts for multiple assignments. Writing drafts is not something I am fond of. I like to give myself ample time, research and write when I am ready. Once I do put pen to paper I often feel like I'm done saying what I said. It's not ready to go instantly but after fixing punctuation, grammatical errors, a little restructuring and changing a few lines here and there I feel like my work is done. This class forced me to write multiple drafts which led to several positive alterations.

1. I was able to plan out better what exactly I want to write in detail and with a plan instead of just going by vibes.
2. I was able to make my writing or my work better with the help of feedback I received and working on it.

For instance in one of my final Op Ed drafts I wrote “ Human beings are swayed by what people around them believe, and the scary part is more often those around them might not actually agree with them either. And in turn, have been picked up from people around them.” This was a bit confusing I could gauge and due to multiple drafts it eventually became more coherent in the form of

“Human beings are swayed by what people around them believe, and the scary part is often those around them might not actually agree with what they are preaching either. And in turn they might have picked it up from people around them. A long chain of groupthink. People might be afraid to speak up when they feel like they're alone and eventually confirm and give in despite their actual beliefs. It's like when in school you had a doubt but were too scared to ask, only to later realize that everyone had the same doubt.”

Although longer I feel like it conveys my point and its importance more effectively.

If I have to choose one of the most significant learnings I got from this class it would be about integrating sources. I love to write stories, fiction, drama, sketches etc and I can write extensively about my opinions as well. My opinions would be based on research too. Yet there's something challenging about integrating those sources into my work I found tough. I felt like I had too much to say myself and citations and quotes are eating up my space. I have been on the other extreme as well. Where I felt like I wanna include more and more sources and quotes and end up with a list of borrowed words with my words just connecting them to one another. This class helped me with that. Having the confidence to write whatever I want, having it planned and being forced to work on it again, being more comfortable with multimodal usage all these things allowed me to integrate my sources in a better manner. In a way which doesn't just cross a box but actually adds something, without taking something away. Here's a sample,

“There are multiple reasons as to why people seem to be energised by the idea of a dictator. These factors work individually as well as collectively with each other, amplifying the desire for a ruthless dictator. This is not a new phenomenon. “Early in the twenty-first century, the number of democracies surged past the tally of authoritarian states worldwide. By 2019, dictatorships outnumbered democracies.” ( Sergei Guriev and Daniel Treisman) This century has Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un. The previous had Mussolini, Stalin and Ho Chin Minh. Even going back 255 years in the past the world had Napoleon Bonaparte and over 2000 years ago Julius Caesar. Dictatorship nor our fascination with it is a new concept. According to Jean Kim M.D a Psychiatrist, this fascination starts early, as early as our birth.”

When it was announced to us that we will have to write a self assessment essay . I thought to myself, How will I make this interesting? How will I prove myself? And how do I choose?

Luckily this class prepared me to do all and much more . I look forward to writing more extensively and exploring other genres with the knowledge I have gained in this class. Signing out, peace

- Aaryan Minocha ( professional Yapper)