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Reflection on Researched Op-Ed Response

Transitioning into writing for the sciences has been difficult yet engaging as I have had to dive into learning new analytical and writing skills. The researched op-ed required these skills to be put to use, ultimately challenging me. I was not only unfamiliar with op-eds, their purpose, structure, or even how they differed from regular researched essays. But due to this being one of our first assignments, being asked to not only analyze but also compose my own op-ed felt overwhelming. However, with guidance from our professor and peers as well as exposure to examples, the task became clearer. Essentially our op-ed was meant to be a persuasive piece integrating research from multiple sources, while also considering audience, purpose, tone, and context.

While beginning the process of writing my piece, the researching aspect was one of the first challenges I encountered. We were tasked to include at least three sources in our text, finding my last article to support my stance was difficult. My first two sources were strong, well-researched, and aligned with my argument. Making the selection of my third source to be based on its ability to be both relevant and credible while maintaining the same level of persuasion. As I struggled to find an article, I referred to previous course lessons and used my research skills to use the resources provided by City College in order to finally find a last supporting article. This experience highlighted an important aspect of research, the need to critically evaluate sources not just for their content, but also for their rhetorical effectiveness in supporting an argument. Another small yet frustrating complication was finding the best format for my op-ed, specifically choosing what title fit best, where and how to place an image, and how to properly synthesize my articles while still making the piece stance forward but with trial and error I was happy with the work I created and its final look.

Despite these challenges, I found the assignment enjoyable. Particularly because of the topic I was able to choose. Creating my op-ed on a subject that interested me made the research and writing process go by fast but also further educated me on a topic that interests me outside of the classroom. I also appreciated the structured approach we followed, supporting assignments such as the reverse outline and source report made the entire process easier, since it made my final draft to have a very clear and direct map to follow.

Overall, from this assignment I have learned the importance of structure and audience awareness in persuasive writing. In future assignments, I hope to practice what I have learned. Apply it into those future assignments while paying closer attention to how my sources work together to support my claims and transition them better. Although some aspects of the process were difficult, the skills I learned and the ones I re-sharpened will hopefully work towards making me an organized, analytical, and well rounded writer.