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FIQWS 10013

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Self Assessment Paper

Initially enrolling, I didn't know what to really expect from this course. Seeing that it's an American musical theater class, I was a little apprehensive due to the lack of knowledge I have of musical theater. The only musical I knew about and had watched live on Broadway was Aladdin the Musical, from a school trip during my middle school years. A few weeks into the class, I was introduced to a musical theater performance, expected to analyze it. Different from the forms of English language and literature I've worked with in the past, I found it difficult to analyze the musical theatre performance. Faced with this challenge, both Mr. Lobell and Dr. Bono assisted in the analytical process, demonstrating how to break performances into different components, making it easier to digest. With both professors' support, I gradually became better at dissecting performances. Equipped with these skills, I was later able to translate a musical performance into a different artistic form, such as videos, poems, story scripting, and much more. With the sorts of classwork and homework assigned over the semester, this course has assisted me in producing well-reasoned written and oral arguments using strong sources to support a conclusion, and has created an environment to further analytic writing and critical thinking.

Having the analysis essay assessment as one of our first major assignments of the semester was essential in setting the groundwork and preparing me for more complex future assessments. The analysis essays contributed to the expansion of my analytical thinking skills, requiring my classmates and I to pick an element from a theatrical performance and expand on how it contributes to the overall central idea of the play. To do so, I had to dissect the play into its different components to simplify the process of identifying a specific aspect that drives the plot and also elaborate on it. Doing so challenges investigative thinking, which involves the prefrontal cortex of the brain, responsible for decision-making and problem-solving. I believe this assessment set me up to tackle more demanding theatre work in the course later on in the semester.

Utilizing information gathered from the completion of the analysis essay, I was able to form a personal translation of a theatre performance we've analyzed. The genre translation project required the class to create a different version of one of the already existing theatre works that had been discussed in class. For this assessment, we could translate the play into any other form we pleased, from writing a short background story of a character to creating a video relating the story. With the boundless amount of ways and forms I could translate my theatre work, this not only strengthens but also amplifies my creativity. With plenty of creative ways for me to translate my chosen theatre work, I decided to write a poem about one of the characters' perspectives. Although being someone who has a hard time with poems, this assignment translation project pushed me out of my comfort zone, transforming my weakness into a strength.

And lastly, one of the last major projects we worked on was the research essay, which required us to pick a musical performance and explain its impact on American history. With all the skills learned from previous lessons, I felt well prepared to complete this assessment. Using the source gathering techniques I learned along the course, I was able to find and put together a lot of supporting quotes for the essay. Not only did I find sources, but I was also able to pick credible ones by looking up authors' credentials, and making sure the sites were reliable and couldn't be altered by anyone. This assessment taught me patience when I encountered difficulties finding reliable sources, and developed my elaborate skills when analyzing sources and their relevance in the contribution to my thesis. Overall, this assessment really contributed to my journey of being able to write college-level papers.

Despite not being a required course for mechanical engineering majors, this class has nevertheless had a great impact on me as a student and a person as a whole, outside of school. As a student, it has guided me down the right path of demonstrating the ability to undertake more demanding college English language and literature courses over the years. Going into a more advanced writing course, I will already be familiarized with what's required of me, making completing tasks straightforward. Aside from being an academic pillar for me, this course has also built on my social media intake. It taught me not to just believe everything I see, but instead make sure the source is reliable, making sure I don't get misinformed or misinform others. This class