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### **Final Reflection**

My first semester at the City College of New York has been filled with a multitude of new learning experiences and opportunities that have widened my perspective on education. The time I have spent in English 110 with Professor Brain has been extremely influential in transforming my educational journey by opening my eyes to different perspectives through the lens of language and literacy. English 110 has taught me the importance of understanding the language and literacy perspectives of my classmates, how to translate my ideas and opinions from words into visual arguments, the unprioritized issue of language and literacy discrimination, and the importance of outlining your ideas and thoughts to create a structured and informative essay. These four lessons that derived from my time in English 110 have substantially improved my writing ability and my overall language and literacy skillset.

English 110 strongly improved my fundamental writing, language, and literacy skills by introducing new topics that I was previously unaware of and did not learn, as well as building upon my current skillset. The first lesson, and most important in my eyes, that I learned in my time in English 110 is the importance of understanding the language and literacy perspectives of my classmates. Upon learning about language and literacy discrimination, I did not truly understand the effects of this form of bias because I had never personally experienced it, I only captured a glimpse of it through experiences and stories from my grandmother. Assignments like Translation 1 and Translation 2 were important assignments in my discovery of understanding the language and literacy perspectives of my classmates because I got a visual representation of their experiences. This visual representation allowed me to deeply analyze and break down my

classmates' arguments and personal experiences to truly empathize how language and literacy discrimination negatively affected their language and literacy journey. Secondly, English 110 taught me how to translate my ideas and opinions from words into visual arguments which I believe is an extremely necessary skill that I need for a future in the engineering world. The assignments Translation 1 and Translation 2 gave me the opportunity to express my views and feelings from my writing in my language and literacy narrative and my synthesis essay into a visual based argument. Translation 1 and Translation 2 are two of the primary assignments that took the arguments from the language and literacy narrative and the synthesis essay into visual arguments of the essays' arguments. Not only did this method teach me how to translate ideas from paper to a picture, it taught me that there are so many ways to view my opinions and feelings through a multitude of different shapes, sounds, drawings, images, and almost every other aspect.

The first two lessons I gained from English 110 played an extremely strong role in the development of the language and literacy journey through expressing my writing into visual forms and understand new perspectives from my classmates to widen my horizons on language and literacy discrimination, but the next two lessons played an equally important role in my English development by prioritizing certain issues and outlining assignments for structured and controlled writing. The third lesson that strongly impacted my English skills during my first semester in English 110 is the unprioritized issue of language and literacy discrimination. Before taking English 110, I had never heard the phrase "language and literacy discrimination" and I was not able to define the term because of my unfamiliarity with it. As English 110 progressed throughout the semester, assignments like Amy Tan's "Mother Tongue" and Ashawnti Young's "Should Writers Speak Their Own English?" introduced me to the concepts of language and

literacy discrimination by giving me real world examples and personal experiences from the authors. Author Amy Tan gave, in detail, the experiences of her mother facing language and literacy discrimination in all aspects of life and author Ashawnti Young used the experiences from himself and his students and how they were forced to conform under the norms of “standard English”. Learning about this type of prejudice gave me the opportunity to develop my ideas and opinions on language and literary discrimination, as well as share my personal and family experiences about how this form of injustice deeply affected my grandmother. I was able to write the two major assignments for this semester, the language and literacy narrative and the synthesis essay, about language and literacy discrimination with my original language and literacy journey, the discriminatory experiences of my grandmother, and the physical and mental effects from published articles. Finally, English 110 taught me the importance of outlining your ideas and thoughts to create a structured and informative essay. Having to write long essays, such as the language and literacy narrative and the synthesis essay, takes a long amount of time to write because ideas need to be developed, sources need to be found and analyzed, and the information needs to be translated into the essay. Assignments such as the synthesis practice worksheet, the synthesis proposal worksheet, the researching online worksheet, and the research topics brainstorm worksheet were vital assignments that allowed me to structure and outline my essay to properly organize my ideas for a smooth and informative essay. I used these worksheets to gather sources which helped build a strong essay through having high detail sources with valuable information that enhanced my essay’s argument. English 110 taught me these four extremely valuable lessons that not only enhanced my essays in the class, but made me a well-rounded student through teaching me a variety of different aspects of English.

English 110 has significantly strengthened my writing, language, and literacy skills through introducing me to new perspectives and experiences from authors, classmates, and even myself. I learned the four extremely valuable lessons of the importance of understanding the language and literacy perspectives of my classmates, how to translate my ideas and opinions from words into visual arguments, the unprioritized issue of language and literacy discrimination, and the importance of outlining your ideas and thoughts to create a structured and informative essay. These four lessons have increased my English skillset tremendously. English 110 has introduced me to a variety of new ideals and lessons that have widened my perspective on education and the different ways to learn through experiences and teachings.