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Prof. Carrie LeBigre

Writing for the Sciences; Tues-Thurs 9:30AM

Introduction

Writing for the Sciences was a class designed to help teach students how to analyze scientific works and create our own. Whether it be lab reports or research papers, this class was there to help us and propel us into our careers in the scientific world. Mainly, I learned how to put together data into a report. With the use of previously learned grammatical structure and elements, we were taught how to format data and information, provide analysis on it, and critiques of our own work and other sources. We worked on two major papers during this semester: “Writing for the Survival” and a Literature Review

- **Writing for the Survival**

Writing for the Survival was the first major paper in the class. The basis of the paper was to imagine that we are creating a hypothetical new society. Humanity has gone to a new planet or recreating Earth, and we must create a new government/laws. We had to come up with things to keep from the old society, things to develop, and things to get rid of from the old society. Afterwards, we had to decide one thing out of all the categories and focus on that. The paper could be either a group paper or individual paper; I was a part of a group and we chose to focus on getting rid of drugs in our new society. With the group size we had, the paper had to be 7500 words with 4 different sections: A white paper, a warning message, a public-facing campaign,

and another section of our choosing (we chose to create a school textbook section). I was tasked with developing a warning message that could be understood 10,000 years into the future along with a lab report and explanation of the warning message. I created a fabricated lab report of the issue, including the history of the issue, the severity of the issue, ways to prevent the issue, and a drawing that could be communicated 10,000 years into the future. This assignment helped me understand how to write lab reports and what content to put in them, alongside how to format data.

- **Literature Review**

The second major assignment was the literature review. We simply had to pick a researchable topic, research about the topic, and then pick a few sources of different disciplines and provide critiques on the sources. I chose the research question: “Can we make Mars Habitable?”

The main point of the paper was to provide critiques on the sources while also coming to a conclusion. I had come to the conclusion that Mars cannot be made habitable with the current technology. However, this assignment has helped me understand how to use different sources of different disciplines to come to a more narrow conclusion. It also helped me understand how to choose sources in order to come to an accurate conclusion.

Reflection

Overall, this class was extremely helpful in understanding scientific works.

There were 2 main things I learned: How to create a scientific work, and how to choose scientific works for my own research. Most of the other strategies covered I had previously learned in AP English classes in Highschool. This class also encouraged me to work in groups; allowing the first assignment to be a group assignment provided me with the feel and understanding of collaborating on scientific works. I also got to use the CCNY database to help my research on both of the projects. The database was a good tool, but I found more sources with newer developments elsewhere, such as the NASA website. Both of these assignments focused heavily on the methodology of the source and research, which made me understand giving critiques to sources. We have to understand how the research was conducted and how meaningful it is.