

Yiting Fu

Engl 21002

Professor Geoghan

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Self-Assessment

This semester, in my social science writing class, I completed a Research Response, a Community Profile, and I am currently working on a Digital Community Profile. Although the topics of these three essays are different, when I look back at my writing process, I find that I have gradually developed my own flexible writing method for similar types of writing.

For me, the first step of writing is always research and reading. No matter what the topic of the essay is, digging deeply into related reports and articles always brings me deep understanding and provides useful information. Planning and drafting is my second fixed step. I am used to building a clear outline, which helps my brain arrange each paragraph in an organized way. This not only avoids repeated expression, but also strongly pushes forward my main idea.

However, the differences between different assignments are also obvious, especially when dealing with the Research Response and the Digital Community Profile. These two writing projects rely more on academic and general sources from the school library or Google Scholar, while the Community Profile requires me to collect information by myself. I used Google Street View to explore the community, did field visits and took photos, and included Primary sources. Setting my own research questions, choosing interviewees, and talking with them face to face was a very new experience for me. In practice, I also found my strengths and weaknesses. When the interview answers were very different from what I expected, I learned how to adjust my

follow up questions and ask detailed questions to dig out useful information. Being able to independently carry out and understand this kind of real information made me feel a strong sense of achievement. The difference between independent research and secondary sources is that Primary sources allow me to go beyond the statements in other people's reports, think by myself, and research on my own. Setting questions and talking with interviewees in person can make sure that my information has not been changed and is timely.

Class discussions and peer review played a very important role. Other people's perspectives helped me not stay in a limited thinking space. For example, in the first peer review, a classmate pointed out that although my essay presented others' ideas, it lacked my own deeper analysis and I could include more of my own voice. This feedback made me rethink my writing logic. I began to think about how to integrate others' evidence into my own discussion, so that it supports my ideas instead of letting the evidence take up too much of the essay and leaving little of my own language. However, in this balancing process, I also met some difficulties. I tend to fall into over discussion, which makes the essay too long and unfocused. I need to delete some content, make choices, and keep the essay smooth and the logic clear. This is relatively difficult, and it is something I need to improve in the future.

By looking at the self assessment survey, I saw that many students also have the habit of putting important information and links into a separate folder. This shows that organizing and collecting information is a very efficient method for writing. I also found resonance in other answers. In terms of difficulties in asking questions, some students also mentioned that we need to review the length and summary of the essay. We need to make sure that the ideas and evidence have enough space to be expressed, while also avoiding having too many words.

In the whole writing process, the part I enjoy the most is actually the early stage of research and reading. When deciding the topic direction, reading often brings me a lot of ideas. I am interested in researching ideas that people have not noticed or thought of at first. Besides using words to deliver my information, I also like to use visual effects to deliver my ideas, which to some extent adds some energy and attraction to the essay.

Looking to the future, I hope that when I do research and writing, I can more accurately focus on key points. At the same time, while keeping my curiosity about new things, I want to explain complex social science topics in a more simple and clear way.