

A SEMESTER OF GROWTH: MY ENGLISH CLASS REFLECTION

SELF REFLECTION ESSAY

When I enrolled for the English course, I was unsure of what I was going to get into. While I knew that there was going to be some writing involved, I had no idea the level at which it would impact my thinking, communication, and learning styles. At the end of the day, I have realized that there were certain things that I learned through the course that I can attribute as being significant.

The greatest lesson that I have learned from this class is that great writing is the result of a process and doesn't happen at the first try. This idea was best exemplified by one of our major assignments in the semester; the LLN, language Learning Narrative. It involved us to write on how we came to learn something. In this case, I wrote about how I learned English in preparation for the Duolingo test. In the beginning, we were instructed to do what my teacher referred to as a messy first draft; which means it was incomplete and latched polish. Initially, I thought that the exercise was pointless because we will be turning in unfinished work. However, after doing so, I found out that I enjoyed it more than usual.

Also, during the course, I found that receiving comments from other people is among the most valuable means of enhancing your writing skills. Having submitted my LLN essay, we had a session of peer review when another student evaluated my paper and provided me with comments on some parts of the essay. My classmate noticed that I had written some parts in an ambiguous manner, as well as missed an essential point

related to what the duolingo test is like. It was embarrassing to hear such comments, but I returned to the next and modified it. The result was quite obvious: the quality of my essay increased. Otherwise, my essay would be totally different.

One additional skill that I learned during the current semester includes reading actively as opposed to reading passively. Prior to taking this course, when i was reading some piece, i usually forgot it after finishing reading. However, in this class, I have learned how to make annotations, use highlighting techniques to emphasize major issues and write down the notes while reading the book. Using the same approach to working with the assigned reading helped me to remember what I had read and discuss these issues during class sessions not referring to my reading. Currently, I use the same approach for processing my important information.

Research and citation was another area where I grew a lot, even though i t was one of the harder units. I learned that strong arguments are built on multiple sources, not just one , and that citing your sources is about honesty as much as it is about following rules. For example , when completing the research paper assignment, we had to collect data from various resources(google , oneseach library database) and then incorporate them into one essay in such a way that we were also citing all of the resources used. I used to paraphrase things before this course without providing citations since I was under the impression that it wasn't really important. This is no longer the case for me :).

Something smaller but still meaningful is that I learned how to begin writing without being prepared. This refers to those moments when at the very beginning of the class,

we engaged in some free writing, meaning that we wrote for five or more minutes without any prompt and without being worried about evaluation. At the early stage of the semester, i was hesitating for a minute or two before beginning to write because i was lost in thoughts and had no idea of what should be written. But slowly and gradually, I noticed how I was starting to write quicker and easier. This helped me a lot in my research assignment.

All in all , this semester gave me real, usable skills that I know will carry over beyond this class. The LLN process taught me that writing is about drafting and revising, not perfecting on the first try. Through peer review, I learned the value of external feedback in improving one's work in ways that one could never have seen without it. Active reading provided me with techniques that I can actually apply. Research and citation taught me to take sources seriously. And freewriting helped me overcome blocks I had with writing and finding ideas to write about. To put it simply, I came into this course thinking it would just be another requirement to get through, but I am leaving here with skills I genuinely plan to keep using.