Luz Estevez

Professor Von Uhl

12/16/2019

Self Assessment

The End of an Era

The Fall 2019 FIQWS10108 course has come to an end. It was 4 months of hectic writing, papers/essays, struggles. But most importantly, it was 4 months full of progress and growth. When I first came into this class, I thought I was a pretty decent writer. I wasn’t the best, but I thought I had a good enough knowledge on how to compose a good essay. Man, was I wrong. Looking back on the first essay I wrote for college back in September, and compare it to my most recent and final essay, my growth and development as a writer is more than evident.

I always had trouble when it came to analyzing literary texts, especially when inputting those analysis into an essay. Repeating myself was the problem. I always found myself repeating myself, just rephrasing the words, and felt like I had a limited analysis. As we progressed in the class, I learned that even one sentence can have a million different interpretations, it’s just how you analyze and support that interpretation that matters. I began to broaden my analysis, making connections, rather than repeat the same concept/idea over and over and simply summarize. I feel like I can now draw better, thorough connections, and make it into a smooth transition to the rest of the paragraph/essay. This was a great achievement for me because analysis is everything. Interpretation is everything. I believe that once you have a clear and supportive analysis, everything starts to flow a little easier.

Before, in my previous english composition classes, for me to revise or participate in a peer review with fellow classmates was very rare. I would typically write one draft, hand it in to my teacher for revision, which never really offered thorough insight, and then tweak it a bit for a final draft. Looking back at it now, I never really learned from so called “revisions”. However, in this course I developed new strategies for revising and drafting. Peer reviews were critical in the development as well. I asked questions, and took any criticism into consideration when writing the next draft after every peer review. The peer reviews gave me insights from different perspectives, and different areas where I can improve. Revising and drafting is a crucial step when writing a paper, since it shows you on where to improve and how.

When writing the Critical Research Paper, I had to incorporate at least two outside sources besides the literary texts I was using. This was a part where I was majorly stuck. At first I had no idea what to condone research on. After deciding, I was struggling on how to introduce it into my essay, and make it a smooth transition. Since my outside sources were mostly factuals, which I chose specifically to emphasize the severity and importance of the topic, I found it a bit challenging transitioning it into my analysis. However I managed to get it done. I connected some of my analysis to real-world situations, in which I was able to introduce my outside sources. Using outside sources was not new for me, but the type of essay I had to write it on was. I usually only used outside sources for research papers, or argumentative essays. This however, was a thorough analysis paper based on my own thoughts and interpretations, hence why the outside sources were a bit challenging. I learned new ways to use outside sources, for future purposes, and how to search and choose for the correct outside source.

Grammar was never really much of a problem for me when writing. However, after doing in-class reviews and going over the material in the “grammar packets”, I realized I have been making slightly more mistakes than I imagined. They were typically with punctuation, such as where the right commas go, or where you should put a colon instead of a comma, and where you should simply end a sentence and not extend it with commas(exhibit A). These are little mistakes that at the time, you don’t really notice until it is pointed out to you (if it is), and even then it’s a bit confusing. You may not think of it as a bit deal, but grammar is a huge part of anything you write. Without proper grammar or punctuation, you can be sending out a completely different message than what you are actually trying to convey.

This is it. This is the end. I typically would be super ecstatic about this, but writing this final reflection and reflecting back on the progress that has been achieved throughout this semester has made me nostalgic. This composition course has taught me way more than I could have possibly imagined. The new strategies and concepts that I have learned and practiced has been a tremendous help for me on my essays, and any part of composition there is. Skills that I will be able to apply and master through time and practice, towards all my future papers.