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Abstract

In this paper, I will be analyzing how my writing skills have improved or developed throughout the semester, along with how and if I met any or all of the Course Learning Objectives established at the start of the semester. In addition, I will also discuss how my methods of researching have improved, and what further improvements I can continue to make in my writing after I leave this class.

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ENG21003-S

Self-Assessment Essay

When I first started this course in August, I knew with utter confidence that my writing skills were, at most, sub-par. However, over the course of the semester and my time in ENG21003, I have seen great and strong improvements within my writing composition. Throughout the course I have been able to, through feedback and revisions, been able to prepare myself for more scientific-based writing and publications that I will face in the future. Even with the minor assignments, I saw that the feedback provided was even applicable towards my other works, such the research paper and major essays. Using the writing objectives as a guide to my writing and composing of papers, I was able to exceed my former expectations as a writer, while also redefining what my perception of science-based writing are defined as.

At the start of the semester, I noticed that some of my minor assignments could use some improvements, such as with grammar, researching, and paper structuring. However, towards the end of semester I was able to utilize feedback from my major essays and not only improve my short assignments as the semester went on, but also develop new strategies on how to brainstorm and research in order to organize my information into stronger pieces of writings.

For example, instead of focusing solely on the assignment and tasks at hand, during my minor assignments I would attempt to heavily critique the works and develop connections to other scientific-related events happening currently or in the past that are related to the articles. Or in the case of writing product reviews, I will focus on certain aspects of the product that would be most applicable to what an average consumer is looking for in order to appeal to the large target audience possible.

Similarly, I would also apply these methods to later, lengthier papers written towards the end of the semester. During the Scientific Controversy Paper, I spent hours upon hours researching and organizing articles and content in order to determine how to best structure the information I found in my paper so that it would make the most sense to my audience. Additionally, during group assignments such as the Vaping Crisis debate and the Research Paper, I also developed greatly in terms of my communication and interaction with others. By doing such group assignments, not only was I able to improve my group communication, but it also helped with brainstorming and organizing by bouncing ideas off one another and hearing how others wanted to organize their sections of the paper and presentations. As a result, this caused me to expand my techniques on writing and researching.

I believe that due to the writing assignments that were presented, and with certain research projects presented, it has also evolved my perspective on what writing is and how I can

best approach writing when the situation and audience changes. For example, the major and minor assignments enable me to code-switch my prose and content in order to appeal to certain audiences. Additionally, I have learned to modify my writing style in order to fit certain criteria and present my work in a reasonable manner with respect to audience. Overall, I would say that throughout the semester being in this class, I was able to explore new paths of writing which I did not know existed, redefine my writing skills in order to compose new works that are more appropriate for audiences that are mainly part of the scientific community. Now that three months have passed since I first started this class, I see myself capable of writing cohesive product reviews, research papers that include sufficient evidence and sources, and papers that both explore the topic and analyze my sources with the lenses of writer rather than that of a scientist.

After reading over the Course Learning Objectives, and analyzing how applicable they are to my writing, I can say with clarity that I have met most, if not all of the Learning Objectives, and in some cases may have even exceeded my own expectations which regards to how much I understood and met each point. Especially with the major papers, I was able to interpret and modify my writing and sources so that certain audience types could understand my topic and research to the best of their knowledge. Additionally, when working on the Research Paper and attending the Resources workshop for finding articles through the CUNY library databases, I was also able to expand my knowledge on how to find appropriate articles and studies, and furthermore confirm whether or not my sources were credible, and determine if they were peer-reviewed.

In conclusion, I have seen such great improvements in my writing, and while I know there are certain things that I still need to work on, such as sentence structure and simplifying my

sentences so that they are easier to comprehend, I have greatly improved in other areas of my grammar, and the essay process as well. I am able to organize information and research efficiently,