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Professor Holloway

English 2010

Final Portfolio Reflection Letter

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This semester in English 2010 we wrote to a different number of genres writing. The course focused on three related aspects of rhetoric and composition: public writing, writing from sources, and document design. We were broken into groups and had an issue that we wrote about all semester. My groups issue was exercise, wellness, and nutrition in elementary schools. My subtopic was lack of physical education in elementary schools. Researching this topic, we were also informing ourselves of this issue as well.

When the course started we were put into groups and we discussed amongst ourselves what topic we should use. Once we decided on that topic each group member suggested their own subtopic within the topic that they would be writing about. The group came up with different subtopics so no one person was writing about the same thing. Weekly we had to have group discussion and on some of the discussions we were able to submit our draft of each major assignment we had. Not only did we have to submit it to the group, but we also had to do at least two peer reviews. I really enjoyed doing the peer reviews. I thought it gave great feedback and also it was nice having a second, and third opinion about your work. How I used my peer reviews pertaining to my assignment, I took their suggestions and edited my work. My argument document one of my peer reviews suggested to make sure and follow citation rules. She gave some citation websites that were really helpful, I had never heard of the site she suggested nor that there was a citation website. She also stated that in the second paragraph there was an attention grabber but suggest putting the attention grabber in the introductory sentence so I changed the introduction of the paper. I also liked the feedback the Professor gave as well. She suggested that I try to avoid 2nd person in a formal argument and to use nouns rather than pronouns when possible. Also I noticed I had use I know or I think and when writing an argument essay I should use different phrases. I definitely revised the paper and changed those suggestions that were made. I think peer suggestions helped me as writer in giving me feedback about things that I couldn’t see myself. They included in depth suggestions on what I needed to do to strengthen my writing and it was all positive criticism. With my brochure, I accidently mixed formats. I ended up revising it to a pamphlet and it turned out better.

When it came time for me to give my peer reviews I provided feedback for every assignment we had. Some of my comments that I gave were “her introduction had good examples of the lack of awareness, and she gave a personal example.” “On the commentary the writer states and supports the position and it is made clear.” “We need to offer healthy options for kids. The issue relates to the problem of healthy nutrition in schools and it is clear what the subject and how it relates to the issue of concern.” I think my greatest strength as a peer reviewer would be that I give honest feedback without it coming off rude. Sometimes people can take things the wrong way but I think it’s all in your choice of words and how it comes across to the other person. Peer reviews have helped improved my writing by having stronger writers giving me insight and input on how to make me stronger writer myself.

While putting my Eportfolio together, it was a tough process trying to include which two major assignments to include. I decided to go with my Argument document and Pamphlet. I felt that my Argument was a stronger paper than my Commentary paper. I also chose to include the Pamphlet because it went in hand with the Argument paper. If I had to do this process over again, I would take advantage of the resources that you have outside of the peer reviews such as the writing center. The more help, the better. Also, taking the time out to do your best at writing, everyone has a great writer somewhere inside of them. I think the greatest strength of my writing is that I am able to organize very well, and when making points I have good examples to back them up.

With this class I was able to write in multiple genres, appropriately adapt strategies of argumentation for a given writing situation, appropriately adapt style and design for a given writing situation, approach reading and research critically and rhetorically, choosing appropriate research strategies for a particular writing task, conceive, draft and revise many kinds of documents, and manage these processes independently, cite sources appropriately for the writing situation, including using an academic system of citation with a high degree of proficiency, understand and respond critically to a civic conversation and become a legitimate participant in that conversation, work collaboratively on writing tasks with other writers, and edit their writing so that it contains a minimum of surface error.