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Self-Assessment Essay

When I read that I had to write a self-assessment, I had no idea what that was, and I only knew that I had to write about my process in writing through this whole semester, but it is more than that. A self-assessment "involves a wide variety of mechanisms and techniques through which students describe (i.e., assess) and possibly assign merit or worth to (i.e., evaluate) the qualities of their learning processes and products" (Panadero, Brown & Strijbos, 2016 p. 804). It is a great way to see what I have accomplished in this class and maybe some things that I didn't. This whole semester wasn't easy at all, because this entire pandemic disturbed everything, making us go from remote classes to online classes. It wasn't a smooth transition because most of the professors couldn't handle this whole situation with the technology and changing the syllabus so everything could be quickly done on the internet. But that wasn't the struggle here, with Ms. Skelly we did the transition like if there wasn't one, I felt like the whole time this class was already online since the beginning of the semester. There were some assignment that I wish I could have done it by watching and analyzing actual people, face-to-face, but after all that, I cannot complain.

Writing for the Social Sciences was an exciting class even though it didn't look like that when I was in the present in the class, but I never thought that I would need to be analyzing and observing people, like actually doing it out of the classroom. It brings out something inside me

that I didn't know I had. I tend to be focused on what people say/do, and I'm always looking around me to guess what people mean with their words or/and actions. Also, it taught me that you never become a great writer from overnight and that everybody has a different way, or we could say the style of writing, nobody is right or wrong in this type of class.

For my first assignment in this class was to partner up with another classmate so we could do a peer interview; at first, I was terrified. I'm not good at talking with people that I don't know, and I'm timid when it comes to that because I'm afraid of how people would judge me because of my accent or on how I behave. Something that I liked about that specific moment in the class is that I learned what open and closed questions are, we use them daily, but we are not aware of it, so I learned how to gain the right answers that I'm looking for with it. I learned how to unwrap myself with that person that I'm interviewing, something that helped me with future assignments. For this paper, I made two drafts, which I learned: to do many drafts as possible until you reach the point that you feel proud of your job and have them reviewed by classmates or friends out of the class. That's the best thing you can do because they can help you with some ideas that could be a great plus to your job.

Throughout the semester, the CCNY class observation essay was one of the assignments that I didn't like to be honest. I don't want to be sitting in places where I don't belong and be listening to boring topics in a class that has nothing to do with me. But I felt like this assignment prepared me for the field observation essay because I needed to learn how to be present without contributing or being part of a group. I just needed to be there analyzing, making notes about what is going on around me, in other words, being a ghost. I needed to use my field notes, so I could write a full observation where I help the reader see and understand the class environment,

what happens during the class, and how I could relate to it. I'm not going to lie, it didn't inspire me to do an excellent job with this essay, I just did it because I had to, but I would never do this ever again, sorry.

Besides, I enjoyed the transcultural interview with all my heart. I got to practice what I learned in the peer interview that I wrote at the beginning of the semester, in some way, I felt proud to be showing my new skills with my old friend, that I had the opportunity to interview her and learn about her culture. This whole project was like a unique experience for me because I know her for a couple of years, and by doing this, I noticed that you never meet someone to the 100%, and by writing this assignment, I knew of what I am capable of while doing an interview. It was pretty fun because I was having a great time with a friend that I had a long time meaning that our conversation was entirely fluent. When it came to reviewing my interview, I noticed that I had a lot of information. Still, everything was like too straight forward, I had to put some enthusiasm in it, and change some expressions in the sentences so my audience could understand every detail of what we were talking about in it.

For last but not less important was the field site observation essay, I had the opportunity to observe through the internet an online community from my homeland, the Dominican Republic, and it felt excellent to write about that podcast. I knew exactly what to write about and what kind of information to attach to the essay; it was an incredible assignment to write. My point from this observation was to show how a group of people can interact and communicate through a group in the app Whatsapp. It wasn't very easy for me to add resources from the internet because my observation was something so specific that people don't research that, but I tried to find some information.

I don't feel like I had grown as a writer, but I had stepped up my level in some things, it is not that easy when English isn't your first language. But I stopped making excuses, and now I try to give all my effort while writing and always checking it with my friend around because I want to improve my writing. I will always be grateful for being in this class because it gave me some confidence to write and be thankful for Ms. Skelly. After all, she understood how the students were affected by this pandemic; she was there for us all the time. Thanks.

Reflection

One writing project that has a significant meaning was the transcultural interview with my old friend, Kasey, I have known her since freshman year of high school. It made me remember all the good memories that I experienced with her and my group of friends in my country, the Dominican Republic. I loved to have that opportunity, and it made me realize that you never know and understand that friend of yours to the 100%, even if you grow up with that person. I put in practice everything that I learned in the peer interview when it came to asking questions and going in-depth with the answers.

I always knew something about her community but not someone so close to my life in it. I had a conversation with her on the topic. How her family reacted to this and how she discovered how she felt with all her experiences. I felt a real connection with her in that conversation/interview that I had with her.

I'm happy that we could get to do this assignment with someone that wasn't close to us because it wouldn't be the same if it were with another person. She is such a great person and always brings the best of me with her positive vibes and her intelligence, she is creative in every way, she knows how to draw, takes pictures and knows how to critic a good piece of art. She is like everything that I wanted to be a creative person in this world.