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Self-Assessment

Being a freshman in college teaches you a lot of things. The main thing that you learn is that you must put effort and patience when it comes to your work. Effort is essential when it comes to your college work mainly because you are learning different things every day. As we evolve our knowledge, you then apply what you learned to better your writing. You apply all the notes received and any help you had gotten from others. You then start to see a difference in your work when you learn from mistakes and you learn from those teaching you.

A tool that really did help me this semester was the City College database. This database had all the information I needed and at times the perfect information. The one database that I really enjoyed was JSTORE. JSTORE was a strong database that even helped me in citation which I noticed I need help in. The last essay that I wrote for my writing class had me a bit worried regarding the topic. I wrote about student loans and how they affect certain economic status. As I searched up the topic, a lot of information that had surfaced really helped me write my paper. I was looking for any articles involving statistics specifically. I wanted to prove how each status was affected differently. I was very proud of my last paper because I started seeing major differences when it came to writing what I wanted to explain and even bring awareness to.

This semester had made my writing stronger than it was last semester. I learned a lot of new things when it came to my work. The one thing I mainly learned I had to work on throughout the semester was focusing my work. My questions or responses would be quite board in which my topic would not be too clear. Thankfully, I was advised by my peers and professor to learn to focus my work a bit more regarding the topic of the assignment. Working on papers, I

had to organize what I wanted to write to conclude what I wanted the topic of my paper to be. I would combine ideas and write down anything that would be important in correlation to the topic. Any extra information that may not be as relevant I would put it to the side and see how I can incorporate it.

When I would have my ideas down, I would set up a system from background information to explaining the topic to then expressing my ideas about the topic itself. Setting up any essay with this format has helped me strengthen what I want to say in my papers. For example, in my second essay where it was clear that I had to fix my focus of the topic, I started to apply this organizational skill and it actually helped me out when it came to organizing my thoughts into the essay. As I kept writing the paper, it made it simpler for me to understand what information I was going to put in and where I was going to put the information. This paper was the first that had helped me start to really think about how I want to start organizing my thoughts onto paper.

Something that was very helpful to me throughout the semester were the reflections after every paper. These reflections helped me establish what I needed to work on for the next paper or what I had improved from the last paper. The reflections also made me think back to my style of writing. It helped me question if I was formal enough and if I contained the proper information. Thinking about my style of writing made me then question vocabulary. Was I using the proper terms? As I continued to ask myself these questions, it helped me fix my work even better. These reflections helped me reflect into the work I had done and if the work was portrayed the right way. I really enjoy the reflections because it shows me overtime how much I have learned and changed my way of writing.

Peer review was another form of help that I had to learn how to incorporate in my work. I was not too happy at first about other students giving me criticism of my work mainly because of my pride. However, something told me I had to learn how to put it aside and learn from my fellow peers. They had really helped me realize certain things about my work. Again, as stated in the beginning, they helped me realize that my papers needed to be more focused and I had to learn how to choose a particular topic. Peer review has also helped me look at how other people portray their work. It also has given me an example of how I should go about my work as well. They had given me excellent advice whenever they read my work and eventually I put it to use.

This class has shown me that effort is extremely essential when it comes to showing how well you can portray your work to your professor and your peers. Putting in effort is what will help me get feedback the way I'm supposed to so I can make my work better than what it is. All it takes is time, patience, and effort. I continued to speak to my peers how they organize their work and any feedback that would be necessary. The discussions between the peer groups were really helpful getting different eyes to look at my work. It helped me step out my comfort zone and erase all the bias that I thought about my drafts. A lot of these discussions opened me up to new people as well. I met new people and started to make a group so we could always help each other out when it came to schoolwork. Overall, I have learned many new things within this course and as a writer, it helped me evolve.