

MEMORANDUM

To: Professor Rodwell
From: Carol lee
Date: March 13, 2023
Subject: ENGL 21007 Lab Report Analysis Essay Reflection

This is a self-reflection memo for my lab report analysis essay where I critiqued 3 separate reports and determined which one had the superior formatting. The purpose of this document is to assess my writing and how it impacted the quality of my paper, along with how it will impact my future writing.

The Lab Report Analysis Essay required me to research and find 3 lab reports that were on a general topic. For my lab reports, I focused on the topic of child psychology. Child psychology is not only interesting to me, but something that I have written numerous papers on and done numerous projects on. While researching for lab reports, I kept in mind the number of pages and how many pages of the report present actual information. For instance, the minimum number of pages consisting of information, not including references, was about 10. This requirement made it easy, but also difficult, considering the abundance of lab reports either exceeding 50 pages of information, or abundance of reports who barely reach the 10-page mark. Lab reports include sections such as the abstract, introduction, procedure, results, discussion, and conclusion. Each section was carefully analyzed considering the organization and whether it was effective in fulfilling its purpose. Additionally, all three reports were compared against each other in order to determine which one was considered the “best” in it’s formatting of each specific section.

In terms of the essay’s rhetorical situation, the genre can be categorized as a genre analysis. Genre analysis papers provide an understanding of a certain style of writing by examining its structure, organization, and content. The motivation to writing this analysis is not only due to my interest in child psychology, but to write something I have never written before. While I have done papers in the past analyzing a movie or a book, analyzing lab reports was a new and challenging experience for me. Through this new writing experience, I hoped to not only further my writing and analyzing skills, but also provide readers with a good analysis of three different lab reports and provide insight on what to look for if they were to go through the same process. While the audience can vary from academic to nonacademic, it is mainly geared towards academic adults who wish to gain knowledge on lab reports in general.

While the Lab Report Analysis Essay was straightforward, the strategy I used when writing this paper is something I will take to support my future writing endeavors. Annotating effectively and efficiently was the most important part of writing this paper since reading and keeping up with three lab reports proved to be challenging at the start. In the beginning, I was confused on what and how to annotate, and I ended up focusing too much on the actual content itself and not enough on the structure and formatting, which is the purpose of the paper. There was a portion of one class that was dedicated to discussing what to annotate which helped me tremendously. After that discussion, I reprinted each report and went through them again, analyzing each one section by section. This strategy will be important for any type of annotating I will do in the future, as

annotating is more than just analyzing the content of the text itself, but more so the specific information you are looking for.

By writing the Lab Report Analysis Essay with the help of rhetoric and writing strategies, it is slowly progressing me towards improving my future writing. This essay benefited me as a writer and a reader since it demanded a thorough analysis of each section of each report and comparing them with each other.

Carol Lee