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Self-Assessment Essay

In this course, there has been a variety of assignments, each with their own criteria and process to completion. Specifically, there has been the formal letter of introduction, lab report analysis essay, product review essay, technical description paper, and the collaborative project. Through the completion of each essay, I have learned how to improve my writing, especially when it comes to the course learning outcomes.

The first paper we were assigned was the Formal Letter of Introduction. This assignment was a typed out professional letter addressed to the professor, with the purpose of introducing ourselves. While I didn't realize it then, this letter challenged the way I wrote by engaging with the course learning outcome of acknowledging the range of linguistic differences between me and others by setting a tone of respect. The language and structure of the paper was clear and concise, as well as avoiding the use of jargon that would overcomplicate the paper by not conveying meaningful information. With this, I was able to write in a style that I was not normally used to and learn how to use formal language and structure when writing a letter. I would also say that writing this paper has helped me with writing real emails to professors, especially to those who require the use of formal language.

The second paper we were assigned was the Product Review. With this assignment, the course learning outcome I engaged with the most was enhancing strategies for drafting and editing. This was the first time I used an outline and draft since high school since the English

course I took in my last semester did not require for us to use one. It eased me back into the habit of using an outline to organize my thoughts into specific paragraphs, instead of writing my thoughts out without any structure behind it. Since this paper is supposed to be a product review, clear and concise language must be used. There should not be any unnecessary information that does not add to the understanding of the product. Due to this, editing was the most useful strategy that engaged with. During my high school English college course, the number one thing my teacher pointed out the most when grading my papers was that I do have good details and make good arguments, but I end up off track. Since I tend to write a lot and eventually go off track from the main idea, having to go back to each sentence to analyze every sentence ensured that my writing was clear and easy to understand.

With the Lab Report Analysis, the course learning outcome I engaged with the most is enhancing strategies for reading. Since I had to read through three lab reports that were each longer than 10 pages, reading effectively was a necessary skill to engage with since I have to have the ability to understand and remember what is being said in each one. As each lab report includes different sections, such as the introduction and results, this made the process of reading a little easier since I could take each section one at time. Comparing and contrasting these lab reports were important, so recognizing the main ideas, key findings, and scientific language was important for when I had to write the analysis part. This helped me with my Biology Lab class, since I am required to write actual lab reports for the experiments I performed. Reading and analyzing those 3 lab reports for this course turned out to be helpful as the semester continued. I was able to write my lab reports a lot more efficiently as reading those lab reports repeatedly allowed me to understand what makes a good lab report, and why exactly its good. With this, I was able to apply this to my lab report writing endeavors.

The final paper was the Technical Description Essay. This essay made me engage with the course learning outcome for enhancing strategies for drafting, revising, and editing. Since this paper includes detailed information about the features and functions of an object, technical terminology, precise language, writing in a clear and concise manner is important. The drafting stage allowed me to put my thoughts onto paper and separate each part of my object into different sections, that includes their own sub-part. Creating a rough draft allowed me to understand what exactly I had to do research on, and if I was missing any parts or features that are pertinent to the overall object. The revising stage allowed me to improve the organization and structure of my writing. I had to make my paper flow smoothly when transitioning between each part and sub-part of the object. For instance, if you are separating your product into three sections, you would talk about everything within one specific section before moving onto the next section. This allowed me to make my description clearer to understand, and easier to comprehend. Editing allowed me to focus on the small details I might have missed such as grammar, spelling, and punctuation. With this, I can confidently say that if I do take a future English course that required me to write many papers, these skills will be beneficial to take along with me.

The Collaborative Project allowed me to engage with the course learning outcome of formulating a stance through my writing. The project is meant for the group to formulate the stance of "you should invest in our product," and the proposal and presentation portion of the project only solidifies the stance by going in depth about the product. While I have done many group presentations, I can say that I've never done something quite like what I did for this group project. Basing your project entirely around wanting people to buy a nonexistent product helped me to realize exactly how much effort goes into projects such as these. I'm sure that as a person

who is going into the field of engineering, I will have to do so many more presentations such as this, but to a more serious degree. Since this project gave me a quick glimpse of how things would potentially play out in the future, I can say that I have somewhat learned how to think as a product developer.