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Midterm Reflective Statement

So far, in my Eng 201/Mar 250 class, I have learned the significance of researching, reading and writing and how the process of those three strategies will develop stronger composition skills as a student. During this process, I have learned a lot about researching that I didn’t know about before taking this course. I have learned how to use the library databases and who to ask for help if I need it when regarding research and when deciding whether or not a source is reliable or unreliable. I have also learned that collegiate journals are a great source when participating in a research paper, because college journals also require tons of research that is reliable, giving you the information that you need on a topic in one source, and knowing that it is a reliable source. Reading the research, is of course important, and rereading is even more important! Making sure that the information you have is relevant to your topic and pulling out the information that is useful for your paper is just as important as the researching process. Finally, writing down your thoughts in a well-organized, brief and yet thorough analysis is important, because the writer needs to get the point across to the reader without rambling while keeping the reader engaged with the proper information to back up your statements.

During the process of writing this paper, the peer review activities were definitely the most helpful. Gaining insight from my peers and be allowed to revise my work according to the suggestions that they gave me helped me a lot. Hearing other people’s ideas always encouraged me to think into depth about things that I didn’t spend enough time explaining or that I didn’t think about at all! A research strategy that I have used so far, for the majority of this project was the Internet. I used NFL.com a lot because I knew it was a source that had first hand information and that was definitely reliable since it was the industries website. A problem that I faced during the research process was finding sources that were considered reliable. A lot of websites that I found with useful information on them turned out to be blogs and opinions, making the information biased and unreliable. The topic of using the NFL as an industry was a challenge, however I am glad I picked it because it was something I was definitely interested in and I learned a lot about something that I genuinely like.

During the revision process I reread my drafts over and over and over! I constantly take out sentences and add others in order to make my paper more clear. Since I know so much about the topic of football already, I would take advantage of that and not explain myself enough, thinking that others know the same things that I do. However, I have learned to always explain and back up statements with reliable sources and information or statistics to make your statements facts, not opinions. Again, the peer reviews were extremely helpful during this process because it let me know what things people that aren’t football fans may not know too much about, which helped me pick and choose what to say and what to add more to in order to make those topics more understandable.

For the rest of this course, I’d like to perfect my researching skills and avoid running into technical issues with databases, and using my university’s library to my advantage. I plan on reading into things a lot more, in classes to come because I have learned that reading thoroughly and rereading articles and papers again wlll help highlight the information that you actually need and separate information that isn’t necessarily relevant to your topic or paper. I have learned so much in these past few weeks while participating in this class, and I plan on expanding that knowledge even further in the weeks to come.