**Midsemester Reflection**

I believe that I have learned a great deal of useful information and helpful tools from my English 201 course at this point in the semester. As a reader, I’ve learned to not always “judge a book by its cover.” This simply means that I’ve learned not to begin reading something thinking that I’m not going to like it based upon the title, length or author, as the material could surprise me. Some articles that I wasn’t particularly excited to read at first actually turned out to be rather interesting and completely worth my attention. Additionally, as a writer I’ve learned that every word does count. It is important to grab a reader’s attention in the beginning and to keep it through the entire piece, which is easy if there is ideal word choice throughout. Furthermore, as a researcher I’ve learned that even though it takes time to find the information you need from a credible, unbiased and updated source, it is worth it. In the end, a writing comes together much easier with the support of reliable sources. The amount of research done also shows through the writing, which in turn makes your statements seem more dependable to the reader.

I’ve also learned that my research strategy has been to search for articles on the library database first, because they provide more general but distinguished information on a topic. Then while I’m writing my paper and find that I need more specific information, such as statistics, if I cannot find it in the database I turn to the Internet and find the most credible source that I can. However, the most meaningful work I’ve done in English 201 so far has been the journal entries that we do on required readings. I believe that this type of assignment teaches us to be concise. In our entries we have to be short and to the point, which is ideal in all writing in order to capture your audience. Conciseness in writing is also one of my goals that I hope to accomplish through this course. My other main goal is to be more conscious of my word choice and try to cut down on my use of the verb “to be” in my writings.

One problem that I have faced so far in this course is that the workload is much more than I expected it to be. I am not at all complaining as I understand this is an advanced level college course; however, I have found it difficult to devote large amounts of time to the assignments as most of them require. Therefore, I simply wish I had more time to give to the course so that I could complete all assignments to the best of my ability instead of rushed and even sometimes last minute. Conversely, I believe that the feedback I’ve received has helped with this lack of time. I think that it is great that we have the option to correct our work after we hand in a draft, because that is all part of the learning process. Also, I think it’s great that we do peer reviews where we can discuss our individual topics with others. These types of feedback have definitely made my revision process much easier. Also, I have found that the rubrics in addition to the assignment outlines have eased the revision process too, as it allows us to better understand what the professor expects from our work before we hand it in.

Overall, I believe the course has aided me in becoming a better writer, as I would like it to, and I am confident that it will continue to do so in the second half of the semester, which is quickly approaching.