Cassandra Meduri

Final Reflective Journal

During my Writing in the Disciplines, English 201, class I learned a lot of things that will help me in the future with my writing and my other schoolwork. I’ve learned that drafting, revising and rewriting my work is extremely helpful and enhances my work. Revising my work and rereading what I’ve written helps me think about the information that I’m writing about a little more, and sparks new ideas that I could add into my paper to make it stronger. Also, I’ve learned that eliminating unnecessary words and sentences can make my paper more straightforward and easier to understand. For example, The Sales and Adjustment letters I drafted, and then when I reread them I saw that they were a little unclear, and that the situation I came up with was unclear. I switched a few things around and took out a few sentences that didn’t need to be there and my Sales and Adjustment letters came out great! I’ve learned that revising and rewriting is really helpful and improved my grades; I will definitely repeat this process in the future.

However, although rewriting is helpful because it improved my writing, I don’t think it is good to rewrite your paper more than once. I think this semester I was asked to rewrite the same paper multiple times, and it caused my ideas to become frazzled, and after a few times of rewriting I couldn’t remember what point I was trying to prove- since I’ve changed it around so many times. I think my writing was always better after the first revision, but having to rewrite my papers multiple times, I think my ideas started to become a little unclear from what I wanted them to be, making me have to go back and rewrite it again!

On a more positive note, various assignments throughout the semester like the journal assignments, discussion boards, group projects and twitter posts helped my reading, critical analysis and writing all around. I think putting your work out where others can read it and give you feedback was extremely effective and helped me open my mind and gain insight to others’ ideas that could make my writing stronger. Working in the discussion boards helped me with this as well, because the discussions always helped me think of the situation or information in a new way. The journal assignments helped me with me reading and critical analysis because it forced me to read more closely and take notes. I’ve learned that reading and rereading it again is also helpful because after you have an understanding of what you read, you pick up on other information that you missed before.

The different information, and concepts that I learned in this course will definitely be useful in other course and after I graduate in a few different ways. The process of drafting, revising and rewriting my work will definitely help in other courses because it will improve my work before I hand it in, and will allow me to get better grades, rather then handing in my paper without rereading what I’ve written. This will also help me after I graduate because it is always important to look over your work before finalizing it. Even though I won’t do much writing as an accountant, I will be filling out a lot of spreadsheets and financial statements, and if I don’t look over my work, I may miss any mistakes I made. Also, the process of critical reading will also help me in future courses because rereading and taking notes gives you better understanding of the information. This will also help me after graduation because reading is always required no matter what job you have, if you don’t read critically, you can easily miss information that is valuable and that is required to get the proper information to complete your assigned work. Overall, the material that we’ve learned and went over throughout the course of this class was very interesting and enjoyable and will be very useful in my future.