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Reflection Paper

Throughout the semester I have made connections not only between my own papers, but also between the papers my classmates have written and between the articles that we read for our discussion board posts. I believe that all of our writing has connection and purpose and it was truly exciting to read my classmates papers to see how all of our papers were interrelated. Personally, I explored new types of writing during this semester and learned to really analyze and decode the topic I was writing about. I was introduced to different writing techniques and ways to go about the writing process. I did this by taking advantage of workshops, conferences, peer groups, and the writing center. All of these things helped me to develop as a writer and revisions always helped to take my paper to the next level.

One of the most important things that I took from this class was how important drafting and revising are. In high school, I almost always got away with handing in my first draft as the final draft. Now I realize that this can no longer possible in college, and this helped to take my writing to the next level. Getting feedback from my professor, my peers, and the writing center was something that was very beneficial to my writing, and it is something I will definitely use in my future. I also learned more about what my strengths and weaknesses are. Throughout my many drafts I noticed I had trouble creating a thesis and tying back all of the body paragraphs to the main point. Many of my drafts had all of the right ideas, but they just needed to be tied together by a strong thesis. Conferencing with my classmates helped me organize my current

ideas and brainstorm new ideas for my next draft. After reading my paper, my classmates helped me to construct a strong thesis, and I was able to go through my paper and make strong connections back to my thesis. The writing center was also very effective in helping me create and revise my thesis. Organization was another problem that I had in my drafts. I never thought of rearranging entire paragraphs until I learned that strategy in this class. This is a technique that helped to clarify all of my papers, and my conference groups helped me think about paragraph order.

A part of the class that helped me to understand the papers that we were writing was the articles that we read for our discussion board posts. The articles we read had to do with literacy, class, media, and gender, which are all topics that we incorporated into our papers. The articles that we read helped me brainstorm topics for my papers, and also sparked interest in what I was writing about. I was able to form opinion and a general understanding of the topics that we would be discussing in our papers. I found discussion board to be very helpful because it got ideas flowing, and I was able to feed off of what my classmates were writing.

Something that was extremely beneficial to me was learning how to use the Pace library database and Zotero. Both of these were crucial to my research paper and they are resources that I will continue to use after this class. Zotero was very helpful with organization and it created the works cited page for me. I learned how important it was to find a scholarly sources by using the Pace database. Another method that was extremely important to the research process was creating an annotated bibliography. In high school, I did not create an annotated bibliography unless it was part of the assignment's requirement. When writing this paper, I found the annotated bibliography to be especially helpful and I will continue to make annotated bibliographies for future papers.

In this class I learned many techniques that improved my writing, and I learned strategies for revising my drafts. I will continue to use most of these strategies in my papers in the future. I was able to incorporate powerful themes such as literacy, gender, class, and media into my papers. Discussion board readings and posts helped me to connect with my classmates, and I also used discussion board articles for inspiration in my papers. An aspect of the class that I found really interesting was how everyone in the class had papers with purpose, and all the papers connected. Everyone in the class had really smart papers that included intense topics like literacy, class, media, and gender. I enjoyed writing my own papers, and it was really exciting to see what my classmates wrote.