

James Best

English 120D

Prof. DeVries

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Initial Writers Reflection

Through my academic career my experiences have led me to have a strong background in Argumentative Writing. During my senior year of high school I took a course called College Research and Writing through Westchester Community College. In that course I got my feet wet and discovered the art of writing an argument. In each chapter we unraveled a new topic. We did everything from Food to Popular Culture, the price of a college education and Sports. As I wrote each essay I began to develop as a writer learning the different connections to Pathos, Ethos, and Logos. I have yet to learn Kairos but hope to find out what it is and how to use it as I take Critical Writing.

What comes into my mind when I think about Critical Writing is, of course, Critical Thinking. Thinking critically is an ability to think “outside of the box” and go beyond what is just on the surface of an idea. For example, with the impending Super Bowl this Sunday, one can say that the New England Patriots are at a disadvantage because of the “deflate gate” investigation. That is what is known as a statement or a claim. Thinking critically into that claim would be if you could give specific examples to the reason why you think the New England Patriots may lose due to “deflate gate”. One may be that the Patriots are unable to focus and handle the distraction in a professional manner. Another may be the advantage the Seahawks have not being in media spotlight and focusing on the game plan and preparing to defeat the Patriots rather than answer questions about an ongoing investigation. In essence, this is the beauty of Critical Writing. You own what you say, your ideas, your opinions and it’s up to you to convey to your reader accurately and factually that it is really true.

As a writer, I feel that I am strong and more confident as ever. My last semester at Pace University opened up my eyes to a brand new way of writing. I began to understand grammatical rules and High Order and Low Order concerns. I became comfortable with editing my own paper and looking for ways to improve and saw the steps necessary to make a paper as perfect as can be. My goal in English 120 D (Critical Writing) with Professor deVries is to perfect my argumentative writing skills. It's been almost a year since I last wrote an argumentative piece but I believe that this class will engage me more than my women in American History course ever did. I am not saying that I did not enjoy every moment of the joint learning community with Professor deVries and Professor Courtney-Batson; but I am saying that this course gives me the opportunity to have more freedom to express myself and write about my passions such as football and music. This in turn will increase my drive and determination to become better as I embark on the journey to achieve my Degree in Communications.

I am thankful for the teachers that paved the way for me to be a solid writer today. My 11th grade English teacher Mrs. White who saw something in me that I could not see in myself at that time. The talent that I had to be able to just put words together to form an idea that made sense. My 12th grade English teacher who started my education in Argumentative Writing and Research and my 1st semester English Professor, Professor deVries who showed me the way to becoming a College English student. From here things can only go up and if I put in the same hard work and drive that I did last semester I should end up with the same result. I expect nothing less, anything less would be a disappointment.