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Composition

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Final Writer’s Reflection

 I’ve learned multiple things in Composition this semester. Since the first day I sat in this class, I have learned a lot about myself as a reader and writer. I learned that making an outline is one of the most helpful writing tools. After making an outline and brainstorming my ideas for my Literacy Narrative, I knew it would be a helpful guide for my future essays. I also learned that proofreading is extremely critical. For example, on the Literacy Narrative I lost a handful of points for common grammatical errors that could have easily been avoided. Most importantly, I learned that essays do not come out amazing with one try. Writing multiple drafts has physically showed me what I need to improve on and having someone read my work helps me to see someone else’s point of view.

 The Literacy Narrative was my favorite piece of writing this semester because it was all about myself. I discovered that writing an essay could be interesting when you get to write about something one really cares about. It also prepped me for our future essays, like The Writer’s Process Search, which would have been harder to write if I did not pick up the skills I learned during The Literacy Narrative. I also learned that having someone proofread your work is beneficial because others can pick up on errors that the writer might not notice right away.

 The Writer’s Process Search Essay was the hardest essay that I wrote because it was the most time consuming. The biggest lesson I learned throughout this process was to manage my time efficiently. When first receiving the rubric for this essay, I procrastinated doing research and writing a thorough first draft. During this writing process, I visited the Writing Center, which I learned is a brilliant asset to have in college. During my visit, my tutor helped me to eliminate the parts of my essay that were wordy and irrelevant, and to expand upon the pieces of information that were important.

 Along with the Writer’s Process Search Essay was the Digital Remix Project. I am glad I learned about the website Storify, because it’s an amazing tool to use when creating a research project. It was also an interesting and creative way to learn about new information on a topic or related topics. I also enjoyed hearing and looking at other student’s Storify because they are entertaining ways to educate myself.

 Some essential skills I have learned this semester would be keeping with deadlines. I found it extra helpful to keep a planner with major deadlines in it to keep myself of track and stay organized. Another skill I have learned would be finding reliable sources for my research papers, and narrowing down information by printing out articles and highlighting the most useful and up-to-date information.

 As a class, we also went over various readings this semester, but two that stood out to me the most were “Shitty First Drafts” by Anne Lamott and “Mother Tongue” by Amy Tan. “Shitty First Drafts,” stood out to me because of its use of humor. It had a very light and fun-to-read tone to it. It helped me to understand that no one’s first draft ever comes out good, and you might need to create a hundred “shitty” drafts before finding the right one. I liked “Mother Tongue” because it was a heart-warming story about a woman and her mother. I liked how real it was and how much you could tell that Tan, the narrator, cared about her mother. I also enjoyed how you could feel the struggle Tan and her mother endured by reading her essay.

 I am excited for next semester because I feel prepared from the skills that I learned in English 110. I now know how to write an essay better than I could before, and I also know ways to create an easier writing process. The skills I’ve learned I will carry with me in the future, like utilizing the Writing Center, outlining, proofreading, and having a friend double check for mistakes. These vital skills will ultimately lead to me becoming a better writer and student!