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During my English 327W class, we had several objectives that were addressed as we learned about writing and the writing process. Reflecting back on my class, I have picked four objectives that I have learned from this semester and that I plan on using for future writing projects and assignments.

1. **Direct writing to specific audiences in the context of discourse communities**

 This course had me focus my writing into the context of a specific audience that is within a discourse community. Previously I have not had to focus my research on to a specific audience group outside of the reader and grader of my paper. I thought that it was important that I learned about how to focus my writing to a wider audience because ultimately, I am not writing to the grader of my papers, but to an audience that I need to correctly target and evaluate their needs. This is important to me outside this classroom because of my role as director of Communications at Empowering Youth to Serve. It is my job to get our message and program out to a receptive audience, and I need to tailor my writing and goals for that audience.

 **2) Consider the importance of genre in composing**

Also in this course we discussed genres. A lot of my research took place within the genre of a research journal. During my genre analysis paper, I analyzed the makeup of that genre within the field of bilingual education. I learned that research journals feature several key sections, some more easier to understand or more helpful than others. Within the research journal genre there were a mixture of specific terms. Some of the terms were related to the field of bilingual education, and were sometimes defined within the article. However, in the data section of the article, there were a lot of statistical analysis terms that were not defined. It was clear that it was expected that the reader would understand what these terms were, or perhaps it was too pedantic to explain the terms. Then, while I did not write a research article, I wrote an essay that needed to use language from the research genre in order for my paper to have a scholarly ethos. What I learned about genres is also important for my new job at Empowering Youth to Serve. I have to tailor my writing within two different genres, social media, specifically instagram and facebook, and a blog. I will have to research conventions of the genres in order to effectively reach my audience and not turn them away from our message by not following genre conventions.

 **3) Compose effectively in both print and digital modes**

In the beginning of the semester we talked of how writing has evolved. Today there is a large debate between print and online media. Many people have argued that print is more esteemed and better while online media is not as serious. Some have said though that online media is more important because it is the future. I have learned in this course that both are valued and have a place. I also learned that writing has been evolving since humans first started using it. In fact, a recent evolutions in writing through emojis and different symbols have enabled writers on the internet to input tone into their writing something that has been an obstacle in short text communications. This semester I learned while I knew how to write in both print and online media, I think I will use more of what I have learned about online media with my new job.

 **4) Examine the process and practice of writing meta-cognitively**

The last thing I want to discuss about what I learned this semester is about the writing process. For me, my writing process has always been linear. Planning led to research, which lead to a rough draft, which was then edited into my final draft. This semester we discussed as a class about writing as a circular process where the writer can revisit earlier parts in the process to really improve their work and provide more freedom in their process. I really liked this method because I often feel that I get stuck in my writing, especially in bigger projects. Oftentimes I grow to dislike my project because I did not go back to an earlier step and fix something that bothered me. Because I now view writing as a circular process, I am more likely to go back into the previous steps of the writing process to add things that my work needs.