

Taylor Hunter

## English 327W Reflection

When first signing up for Advanced Composition 327W I was very nervous and thought I was not a strong writer. When you believe you are not a strong writer and enter a class like this your anxiety increases dramatically. Although, in the beginning of the class this is what I thought of myself and often feared when it came to me writing assigned work. I know longer believe this. This class helps open up your mind to the writing process ,as well as, prepares and teaches you to analyze writing like you have never thought of before. This class helped me grow tremendously in both my writing confidence and the way I look at scholarly articles and other authors writings. English 327W was one of the most effective composition classes I have ever taken in my educational career.

One of the major things that I learned and began to grow at as both a reader and writer is examining the process and practice of writing. This objective I believe is one of the most important concepts I could have learned in this class which also related to discourse communities. Before this class when I began writing a paper rather it was one page or fifteen, I would stare at my screen until I had a “rough” draft that was almost perfected. I would not write or type my introduction down on the paper until it was clearly thought through and all the red lines that Microsoft puts under incorrect words were correct. This I found from being in this class leads to more stress in writing. After reading a few articles almost every professional writer does not even expect this from themselves on the first draft of their paper so why was I? Then we examined how to write with a “terrible” rough draft and go through an organized practice of adjusting, editing, and then your final draft. When doing this writing became simpler for me at least and the process became less overwhelming. I also appreciate all the little writings we did throughout the semester and the brain storming activities that helped me grow at this through the

semester. If it was not for these assignments, I do not think I would have grown at how I process and practice writing at all. It is very hard to change a habit that you are very use to rather it is what you eat or how you write in my case. Although, I still find myself reverting back to my former way of writing I consciously know that I am doing it now and can catch myself before I become panic ridden once again. Learning to process and practice writing like this will help me grow in my future as a student and an educator. First as a student because I can now take this process of writing to my other classes so when I get those assignments that require ten pages and scholarly research, I will be able to apply these skills that will help me be a more productive and successful student at the assignment. As a future teacher I will also use this when I teach my students to write even if it is only a one-page paper. I believe if my students learn this early on in their education they will not be as stressed as I was when it comes to writing papers. They will know how to process and practice writing in what I deem an appropriate and successful manner.

In this class everything we learned has correlated back to each other, even though when we were doing the assignments many may have not felt this way and at first. I was guilty of this as well. Towards the end of the semester all the objectives correlated perfectly back together at least to me two being genre and discourse community. When starting the writing process often we are given a style of writing the teacher expects from us and for this class the major assignment was a research paper. When initiating this paper, you must think of genre and the discourse community you are addressing. Genre I learned is especially important in writing because it sets the basis for your paper style of writing, resource page, layout and much more. Understanding genre is crucial to writing success especially in research papers. Also, when you understand genre in a more detailed sense you broaden your knowledge and can now look at other authors writings in more detail to understand what they are trying to communicate back to the reader. Genre also helps with the ability to understand the concept of discourse communities and the specifics of who the

audience is meant to be. As a college student I have never learned much about discourse community, but it is crucial especially when trying to understand readings that are assigned. When you understand discourse community and who the author wants to address it is easier to decipher the paper especially if college students are not the intended audience and the author wants to address a more specific audience like biologist. Understanding this may help you as the reader better understand some of the terminology and even why you may not understand the reading. Discourse community is also crucial in a younger writers' papers for example the research paper that I completed my discourse community was directed towards people in the education field and so my terminology and examples were directed towards educators so other readers may not understand my references during the writing. I believe learning about genre and discourse communities will be carried throughout my learning and life because now that I have an understanding of both it is easier to decipher and understand articles or journals that are not intended for me and my background.

The concept of synthesizing research to examine a specific issue was also a crucial concept I learned throughout this course. This concept of synthesizing research helped me better correlate my writing and make it seem more coherent versus me putting random information throughout the paper. This concept definitely helped me the most to grow as a writer because it helped me understand the main points of scholarly articles and how to communicate topics throughout my paper. Having this concept mastered helps you as the writer organize your writing so it does not seem so sporadic which I believe I was doing often. This concept has helped me grow as a writer significantly and I will bring this into my other educational courses especially when having to do research because now I will not be putting random information and quotes in my work just to have it.

This class overall has exceeded my expectations and I have learned more in this class about key concepts in writing than ever before. This class has helped be grow into a better writer, as well as, a reader. I now better understand topics of other authors and what topics they intended to get across. I will use the knowledge listed above as a continuing student and bring it into my profession as an educator.