This course has taught me a lot about the proper ways of writing, of which I didn’t know until I started at Old Dominion. The process of starting to write an essay or thesis, it takes time to find the right subject and organizing and preparation. I learned that you can’t wait until the last minute to write a paper or it can show the indication in your writing that you procrastinated. Procrastination is one of my weaknesses, I always believe I have enough time to get things done but then it creeps up on you and I’m pulling an all-nighter trying to get in before the deadline. This course has helped **explore the rhetorical nature of writing and communication**. In doing so, I don’t mean in the literal sense of a rhetorical situation where it’s not meant to be identified or answered, I mean how the course was an intense writing one but it involved a lot of communication. The class involved a lot of writing assignments, especially at the beginning of the year but I learned that she assigned them to help us prepare for the research project. Whew! The research project was a fun process but a lot of micromanaging to make sure everything was in order. The amount of communication was very effective especially in class discussions, peer evaluations and the conferences she held for us to see how we were in our research. This objective was something I had to learn for myself in order to understand which was communication is key and seeing how the small writing assignments can make a significant change in the end, I will apply this knowledge for when I write my future essays and one day when I have to write my thesis in order to get my Master’s.
 This course also helped me realize that I always loved to write, even as a child. I remember always writing made-up stories, playwrights and even an unfinished opera I started in high school. You could say I always had a passion for writing in my free-time but when it came to school, I couldn’t really write the essays the way I would write my stories. I had to learn to follow my brains’ train of thought and to **consider the importance of genre in composing**. By that I mean, trying to figure out what type of essay I want to write or which genre the professor prefers. It’s not always an \*e-ssay process to determine which subject is better suit for a paper. This course helped finding different genres much easier to find and with ODU’s very own library database as well. Ever since I learned how to find different topics, journals of those topics, I’ve used this research tool in my other classes and it’s been a tremendous help! I have learned that the right genre, Persuasive, Argumentative, Analytical & Expository, can really tie your essay together, also the different styles as well. (MLA, APA, Chicago). I learned that most professors have a love MLA style, Persuasive genre essays but then again, every professor is different.
In the time I have studied at Old Dominion, I never had better literacy or writing skills. This course and linguistics has helped me improve for the better. In all honesty, I was horrible at reading and understanding basic higher level words, especially in high school, but once I got to college, I have progressed to where I can say I’m proud of myself for. On that note, I learned from this course how to **examine the meaning and practice of literacy**. In this particular sense, I am going to say the literacy is referred to as the articles, documents and journals required to read in the course and to be honest, most were very interesting and some were harder to comprehend because of the language style and tone. That’s the thing, I suppose, you have to find the things the books that peak your interest. My favorite books are The Great Gatsby and Alice in Wonderland, which are two very different styles of literature, let alone trying to understand the authors writing in different eras in history. This course helped me analyze the different types of literacy, in all the different reading material we read this semester and I became more aware of the author’s tone, writing technique, style and genre of what they were trying to use. This skill I can use in my future English and literacy courses but also when I begin to teach. I can teach my students that it’s used as a reading tool for they are trying to find out what the author is writing, what his style and tone are and what message is he trying to give.

The last objective I learned in this course is to **compose effectively in both print and digital modes**. This skill was something I knew had to do but I’m always wanting to learn more about specific subjects. This objective makes sense though, especially in this day and age. In society today, everything is online but there are still printed reading materials out there, but the problem is, for how long. I found out in our class, that everyone is 50-50 on this. Some prefer reading a book, others prefer on their Kindle or iPad, some prefer writing in pen and pencil and others prefer typing on their laptop. It’s all a matter of preference and I couldn’t agree more. I prefer reading a book or using a hard-copy textbook and writing on paper. It’s simple and easy.

This course has taught me more than I can put into words but I will make sure to put all this new found knowledge to great use!