

This past spring 2022 Semester enrolled in ENGL 211C, Introduction to Academic Writing, I have learned so much and developed my writing ability and skill. I've looked into the different persuasive writing tools and used those tools to write my own rhetorical analysis. I've learned different resources for finding reliable and valid sources, especially peer-reviewed articles. In addition to finding those sources I've learned how to properly cite them and include them in an annotated bibliography. But most importantly, I learned how to properly format a research paper, and utilize all the different writing skills and lessons I learned throughout the semester to complete that paper. From the different assignments and lessons, I completed during the spring 22' semester I was able to develop critical thinking, reading, and information literacy skills by using strategies to compose texts that integrate the writer's ideas with those from appropriate sources, as well as develop multiple strategies, or composing processes, to draft texts by Working through multiple drafts of a writing project and reflecting on composing practices.

Along with other skills developed, these two points from the ENGL 211C Student Learning Objectives sheet, were particularly important in developing and establishing myself as a strong academic writer. To start off with the first point, developing critical thinking, reading, and information literacy skills by using strategies to compose texts that integrate the writer's ideas with those from appropriate sources, I would like to look towards one of my first assignments, the rhetorical analysis. This analysis was written about the Mayo Clinic's article, *Depression and Anxiety: Exercise Eases Symptoms*. Because of my interest in this field, it was an assignment that was entertaining to me. I enjoyed reading about what the mayo clinic had to say and felt like they utilized different rhetorical devices in a meaningful way. The reason I am

citing this specific piece of writing to showcase my ability to integrate my ideas with those of the sources, is because in this case we had similar ideas and knowledge. Therefore, I was able to back up what the source was using with my own background knowledge and provide context for the reader. I also included quotations and in-text citations directly from the article to prove several of my points. Since I was analyzing the article's use of rhetoric, my rhetorical analysis seamlessly integrated both my ideas as a writer, with the information from the source.

The second point from the Student Learning Objectives which I felt I improved upon during this past semester was, developing multiple strategies, or composing processes, to draft texts by Working through multiple drafts of a writing project and reflecting on composing practices. Prior to this class I was never much for the drafting phase of writing. I would typically write a paper, last minute and turn it in as it was. Sometimes I would even proofread my own assignments before submitting them. This class allowed me to develop that drafting and strategizing and, in the end, it helped me become a better writer. The reason this class contributed to the development of this skill is mostly due to the fact the Professor Boeshart would have rough drafts and edited rough drafts as assignments which you had to turn in for a grade. This forced me actually write drafts and revise them before the due date of a paper or assignment. After enough attempts at doing this, it became normal for me to start a draft and I noticed myself doing it with other classes as well. By using this technique, I finished assignments earlier, which gave me time to reflect and look over them in depth before submitting them. A great example of this is the last assignment we had to complete, the IMRAD research paper. We had to submit different updated versions of the outlines over the last couple of weeks in the semester. By the time the actual paper was due, it had already been

completed and revised for some time prior. So rather than waiting till the last minute to write the paper and submit it, all I had to do the day it was due was reflect and make sure that everything was perfect and how I wanted it to be.

These two tools are so important to being a successful writer. In addition to this they also help to reduce stress, especially the second learning objective I discussed. By having drafts and making revisions and strategizing, you create a plan, and that plan leads to good time management and less stress on the due date of the assignment. I learned how to complete an assignment in increments rather than all at once and it has made a world of difference. I'm excited to continue to use these tools, along with all the others I've learned, to continue to work on my writing and eventually get my degree. As I continue down on my collegiate career, I will continue to use these skills and be thankful for everything I learned and did this past semester.

Works Cited

Taylor, K. (2022). Rhetorical Analysis. Unpublished manuscript, Old Dominion University.

Taylor, K. (2022). IMRAD Research Paper. Unpublished manuscript, Old Dominion University.