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Introduction to Academic Writing

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My Writing Experience

Before enrolling in the academic writing course, I thought I knew much about argumentative writing. To my surprise, I have discovered that there is more than what I believed argumentative writing entailed. Therefore, claiming that the course has been valuable would be an understatement. Throughout the course, I have gained helpful insights that have helped me improve my writing skills. The argumentative writing course has been informative because it allowed me to learn different concepts of enriching arguments.

First, I must state that many of the argumentative writing assignments I have completed in this course have compelled me to think critically. However, the assignment that made me think most critically was the assignment about the argument of definition. In this assignment, I had to compare the definitions of beauty and assess if the dictionary definition could be applied to a person. So, I had to critically analyze the dictionary definition of beauty and determine its applicability to a person. Also, I had to critically evaluate the poem *Barbie Doll* by Marge Piercy to derive the speaker's perception of beauty.

Second, there are many things practiced in the argumentative writing course that I will apply in the real world. The first concept I will apply in my profession is rhetorical devices – ethos, pathos, logos, and kairos – to make the arguments more compelling. Using these devices will enable me to construct persuasive arguments when delivering a speech that may evoke a particular response from the target audience. The other concept I learned that I would apply in my profession is identifying and classifying fallacies. The insights I gained about fallacies will help me know when speakers or writers use fallacious statements to manipulate or deceive the audience. Finally, another concept I practiced in the argumentative writing course I will apply in the real world is considering and rebutting opposing arguments. For example, while reading about the argument of facts, it dawned on me that different person may interpret factual information differently. Thus, in the future, I will ensure I consider the opposing viewpoints in my arguments.

Third, although the visual rhetoric field can be challenging, I did not find it difficult to create the infographic. On the contrary, it was easy to make the infographic since the instructions for completing the task were clear. The three infographic samples also helped me know exactly what to include in the infographic. Therefore, the instructions and samples offered helpful tips to help me create the infographic. It is also important to note that the site suggested in the instructions had tutorials on how to use the various features on the website to create the infographic. So, it was fun making the infographic, and I intend to use the site in the future to create infographics in my career for educational purposes.

Fourth, I must mention that I successfully located the research materials from the library resources. I used the keywords of my research topic to search the relevant resources. The CRAAP test helped me evaluate the resources by checking for the timeliness of the information, the significance of the information for my needs, the source's authority, the content's accuracy, and the information's purpose. Even though I spent a lot of time evaluating the resources, the CRAAP test helped me identify useful resources that helped me complete the final paper.

Moreover, I successfully supported my claims with evidence from reliable sources. Throughout the course, I have learned the importance of supporting claims with reliable sources. So, it was not challenging for me to substantiate my arguments in the final paper using credible resources. In addition, I employed paraphrasing and summarizing skills in including information I obtained from other sources. Considering that I had read all the articles I included in the annotated bibliography, it was easy for me to summarize and paraphrase the content in these sources.

In conclusion, the first recommendation I would make to myself if I were now undertaking the same experience is to comprehensively read all the course materials and try to apply them in completing the assignments. The second recommendation is to read beyond the course materials to expand my knowledge about argumentative writing. The third and last recommendation I would make is to engage more with my instructor and peers to revise the drafts since they present an excellent opportunity to enrich the writing.