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English 211C

To whom it may concern,

For my second semester at Old Dominion University, I registered for English 211C. I knew this class would improve my rhetoric, critical thinking skills, which has allowed me to evaluate an opponent's argument in order to exploit its weaknesses and promulgate my own positions. Through the processes of this course, I have learned to acknowledge my weaknesses in such a way that it has allowed me to turn them into strengths.

Throughout English 211C, I have demonstrated weaknesses in citations, memory, and the time it takes me to complete an essay. For a majority of my educational career, I went unnoticed utilizing citation generating websites. Now that I need to manually cite my citations as MLA 6, it takes more of my time and effort. Because of this, I make shortcuts and make little errors that cost me points. For example, on my annotated bibliography, I almost received errors on each of my citations. Another weakness of mine is a memory. There have been multiple times when I have pondered a great idea that will help me write but I forget it. This causes me to get stuck on writing assignments. Finally, writing papers are too time-consuming for me. When I start a paper after it is assigned, I start off perfect. The need to make my paper sound perfect throughout the writing process is difficult. I must continue to learn how to get my ideas on the page first then revise. These are three weaknesses that I will need to work on in future coursework.

There are many ways to approach different audience types in my writing. When writing an essay intended for an audience that aligns themselves on the side of my position, I reinforce their positions. I achieve this by using an encouraging tone and academic diction, so the intended audience will reinforce their beliefs. When I write to an audience that has not decided on a side in the argument, I approach them in an impartial tone. This gives the reader the idea that they are making the conscious decision. Scholarly diction must be utilized in order to establish that I have researched both sides of the argument. When writing to an opposing side, I approach them with an objective tone. I analyze my opponents' weaknesses and refute with factual evidence. In order to accomplish this, I must adopt an academic tone to help reinforce my credibility on the topic. These are the ways I have worked with audience types in my writing demonstrate through my rhetorical analysis, Rogerian, and Toulmin essays.

I have enhanced my critical thinking and evaluating skills through a variety of assignments in this class. Reflection assignments improved my critical thinking because I had to reflect on the justifications of my own ideas in my argument. Writing different genres helped me

apply the best argumentative structure that will support my argument. When researching scholarly articles, I have to evaluate if the author's point of views is valid and sound. Evaluating sources makes me think about the credibility of the information and where the information comes from. These are all ways I have further developed my critical thinking and evaluating skills in English 211C.

Being able to draft text using multiple strategies also developed my knowledge of conventions. Getting feedback from my colleagues throughout the writing process taught me to fix recurring grammatical errors in my paper. Being able to find grammatical errors in papers became easier when I had to give productive feedback. The multiple drafts also check if you're using scholarly articles and correct citation format. Each strategy and rhetoric conventions differ across communities and disciplines because each genre has different objectives. For example, the Rogerian paper requires a neutral tone while the Toulmin essay requires an objective tone. Both essays require different body structures too. Each process is integral to improve your overall literacy skills.

Throughout English 211C, I have demonstrated strengths through my desire to improve, critical thinking, and persistence. My desire to improve is what has helped me pass this class and my other courses. I would spend two hours a week receiving help from the writing center. I would utilize the writing center to improve my writing skills and learn how to write better papers overall. With the completion of many assignments, I learned one of my strengths was critical thinking. I was unaware until a writing center instructor mentioned that I conceptualize great ideas, but have a difficult time presenting my thought on paper. However, my desire to improve continues to fix that issue significantly. I know while the first thought that comes to mind so I won't overthink and forget my thoughts. Lastly, my persistence is what kept me ahead in this course. There is a lot of tedious work in this class but if you complete the work by its due date then you will not fall behind. I completed all the work despite the difficulty and did not fall behind. Students who procrastinate had a heavier workload later on in the semester and failed to maintain a high grade.

Finally, arguing my position on the product liability debate in different argumentative forms has taught me how to persuade my audience in different situations. The complex topic of product misuse itself has expanded my knowledge significantly in ethics, law, and economics. My academic research on the topic has revealed a difficult amount of understanding my intended job will uptake. Academic research on product liability has me researching the current and previous laws on product litigation. Not only did I research the legality of the issue, I researched the morality on the behavior of the two opposing sides. Learning more about ethics during research was integral with my introduction to ethics class. The solution that my academic research has led me to involves economics in business, which entertainment lawyers are involved in. All academic research this semester is leading me to explore areas of entertainment law. This

knowledge can be applied in my day to day life. All experiences in this class have revealed my weaknesses, strengths, and has developed literacy skills that I will utilize every day.