

Aquita Padaro
1234 Love Street
Richmond, VA 5678

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Mrs. Emerson
5115 Hampton Blvd
Norfolk, VA 23529

Dear Instructor,

I hope that you are doing well. My name is Aquita Padaro, and I am a student at Old Dominion University. I am writing this letter to inform you about the impact that my English 110C class had on my academic, social, and personal life this semester. I will explain how all the skills I acquired in this course helped me make daily tasks easier. I will also discuss the role that writing plays in my major and will play in my future career. In this letter, you will read all about the struggles and challenges I faced in all of my classes this semester at ODU.

I've learned a considerable amount of things about English composition this semester. This knowledge followed me outside the classroom and made daily writings and communication easier. These past couple of months, I wrote emails to different kinds of people. These emails ranged from casual conversations between classmates and friends to formal exchanges with teachers, counselors, companies, and business. When writing important emails, I used the grammar and writing skills I learned in class. For example, there was a time that I wrote an email to my advisor to ask him to change my major. I first wrote the email, and later I went back to read the message three times for editing purposes. I found a lot of comma splices and verbs in wrong tenses that I had to fix before sending the email. As the semester went on, I started to naturally apply the things I learned in the classroom to everything I wrote. Before sending casual emails and text messages to my friends and family, I double checked to make sure that I did not have any common comma errors. Editing my writing became like second nature to me, and sometimes I didn't even notice that I was doing it.

I am majoring in Public Health which is under the College of Health Sciences. My major requires me to take a couple of classes during the first semester of my freshman year. None of the courses that I took taught me skills that would have helped me in this class. However, I wrote a lot of research papers in high school. The research papers taught me how to format a work cited page and the importance of citations. I learned about the harmful effect plagiarism has on a people's academic career. The little academic skill that I had before I took this course helped to write my rhetorical analysis. Also, I read a lot of food reviews in my spare time because I wanted

to find new restaurants to try with my friends and family. In the readings, I saw how descriptive the writers were, and how they used highly descriptive words to make the readers feel like they were there with them. Having an idea on how food reviews work made writing about Handsome Biscuits less stressful and time-consuming.

This semester, there were only two classes in which I had to write frequently. Those courses were an introduction to sociology and music theory and history. In sociology, I had to write discussions every week and three reaction response papers by the end of the course. To pass my music, I had to write two essays on concerts I watched. Even though both classes had little to do with English, the professors still cared about the level of care students put in their writing. Taking that into consideration, I made sure to incorporate the brainstorming and organization skills I received in English class into my papers. The rhetorical analysis assignment taught me how to connect with a specific topic, and how to cite quotations. Learning how to citations work helped me with the reaction papers because I could use things a particular person said in the video in my essay without fearing plagiarism. While writing my weekly discussions, I had an easier time connecting with the different topics I had each week.

The ePortfolio that I made for this class this semester will help in the future by giving me the opportunity to look back on my previous work. By the time I am in my fourth year of college, I am confident that my writing skills would be significantly more advanced than they are now. The digital portfolio would allow me to measure my growth and envision how much more I can improve in my career life. Also, it will prevent me from make the mistakes that I made this semester. A digital portfolio is better than a physical one because it can do technological things that the other one can't. Also, the online collection will last forever, but the physical one will not because it can easily be misplaced, damaged, or lost.

These past few months at Old Dominion University were a little bit awkward for me for many reasons. First, I was not familiar with the campus and how college works. I was not prepared for the drastically different college was from high school. I had to learn how to manage my time better because professors don't always remind students when things are due. I also had to improve my multitasking abilities to save time on certain assignments. The way I dealt with stress was by always reminding myself that there was nothing wrong with not having an A in every class. This semester, I struggled with getting involved on campus and finding where I belonged. I did not have enough time for socializing because I was focused mainly on my studies. My goal for next semester is to join a club and meet new people while effectively balancing my social and academic life.

In conclusion, I feel like my writing improved a lot this semester. This English composition course had a significant impact on my view of writing. I've written more papers for this class this semester than I did in all my four years of high school combined. Because of the constant writing, my composition and grammar skills have significantly improved. My favorite moment

in the class was when we went to Handsome Biscuits. My worst moment in this course was when I had to introduce myself the first day of class. The memoir was an excellent way to transition from high school writing to college academic writing. I liked this course, and I feel like it helped me improve writing.

Sincerely,

Aquita Padaro

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Aquita Padaro', located below the typed name.