

Scott Coronado

Professor Matheso

Final Exam Paper

10 April 2022

Throughout the semester there were many different lessons and assignments that challenged me to be a better writer. With assignments such as the weekly modules where we had to read articles and express our opinions on them. As well as major assignments on certain topics that we learned in class. These lessons helped to put a new perspective on writing and helped us to expand our writing knowledge. Topics like rhetorical knowledge, different information literacy skills, and even how to create a draft for a paper. This paper will be about me talking about my self-reflection and review as a writer and learner.

At the beginning of the semester, we were taught the term Rhetorical Knowledge from SLO #1. Rhetorical Knowledge is the overall use of the analysis to understand the purpose, and the intended audience of a written piece. It is also the ability to communicate while demonstrating various rhetorical appeals. This is done by using the rhetorical devices of ethos, logos, and pathos. This lesson on Rhetorical Knowledge was used in my rhetorical analysis paper where I was meant to explain the rhetorical devices that were used in a video. We also learned about rhetorical devices in a reading response where an article discussed Aristotle's Rhetorical Situation. Something that I believe that I could improve is trying to better understand the rhetorical devices without going back and searching for the definition. I will definitely try to use this in any future writing assignments so that I can adapt to different types of prompts or audiences.

The next lesson that we learned was to try to help develop our critical thinking, reading, and information literacy skills. The way you practice information literacy is by first composing and reading for inquiry, learning, critical thinking, and communicating. Then you can interpret and incorporate any outside materials to create quotations, paraphrases, and summaries. These lessons are demonstrated in my English Education Paper where we were prompted to instruct someone on how to prepare and write a college essay. For this paper, I would use the information literacy skills to understand the prompt and begin to come up with ideas on how I'm going to structure my paper. I would also use outside sources of previous work that I have done to add as an example for the reader. The use of outside materials was also used in a reading response where we were assigned to listen to music created by prisoners and write down our thoughts on them. It can still improve with this by trying to add the lessons to other classes in the future. Trying these lessons in future classes and assignments would improve my thinking skills.

Another lesson that we learned was the process of developing effective strategies for drafting an essay. Creating a rough draft or even an outline of an essay so that you can edit and rewrite certain parts could be very helpful for your writing process. As well as even having another set of eyes to look over your paper and give advice on revising certain parts. Learning to accept and act on productive feedback from others could be very beneficial for the final product. An assignment that I created an outline for was for my English Education Paper. This helped me to just get all my ideas out without worrying if they sound good or grammatically correct. Even for this final exam paper, I have created a rough draft. Not only did I create a draft for those but also for one of my reading responses. For this one, I read the articles that we were assigned and we wrote down some notes for each article. From these notes, I created an outline and proceeded to write. The way that I can continue to improve is by trying to do this strategy with every major

paper that I have for other classes. I normally begin to write papers from scratch and this strategy can make it much easier to write.

I've learned a plethora of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling techniques throughout this semester. Such as in creative writing where we learned and understood the structure and story arc of a creative piece. Which are exposition, complication, and resolution. Linguistics showed the different types of English that people can speak based on their upbringing, cultural exposure, and even education. Though they may seem grammatically incorrect because of society's standards it means the same thing. I have also tried to better my overall grammar in my writings by having programs such as Grammarly to better identify grammatical errors. As well as even using a thesaurus to widen my vocabulary in both my major essays and small ones like reading responses. As well as going down to the writing center and having another person review my work and give suggestions on how to make it better. However, these things are helpful for me. I am looking to improve my grammar, punctuation, and spelling without them in order to become a better student.

To conclude this semester truly helped me be in the right direction of being a writer and a better student overall. With understanding rhetorical knowledge I will now be able to point out logos, pathos, ethos, kairos, and telos in writings, books, and even speeches. As well as understand the importance of being able to incorporate any outside materials to create quotations, paraphrases, and summaries known as informational literacy. Create a draft or outline of a paper just so that you can get your ideas out and create a vision of what you want your work to look like. Also being able to okay with another person to look at my work in order to better it. Finally, use a thesaurus or extensions on your computer to improve your grammar. I would also recommend that other students maintain a planner so that they can be more organized and help to

create less stress for themselves. I know that writing assessments has only just begun for me and in the future, I will have a lot more that are far more difficult than the ones right now. However, I will make sure to be level-headed and keep pushing forward because it only makes me a better writer once completed.