

Karen Ordonez

ENGL 21007, Section B

Ms. Crystal Rodwell

Self Assessment Final

This semester was a great challenge for me. I would say that my writing has definitely improved compared to the beginning of the semester. It might not be the best at the moment but there definitely is an improvement. Never being prepared enough during my high school years really took a toll on me because struggling to write was the death of me. Doing research was a huge factor for this semester and that is something I learned to do. It felt like I wrote the most I have ever written but it feels like an accomplishment at the end. Starting off with a product review essay then lab report analysis following a technical description paper to finishing it all with a collaborative project. It all makes sense now and I see how each of these assignments builds off each other.

One of the papers I'm most proud of is the technical description. I've never written a paper like that but it was fun and interesting. There was a lot of research for me to do, which helped me improve my research skills. I have never done a research paper so I was a complete mess at first. It was great being able to write about something I'm interested in, such as the mini waffle maker I chose to write about compared to having to write about an assigned book by the school department. Writing a technical description has taught me the importance of being clear and concise in my writing. Technical descriptions are typically used to explain complex processes or systems, and it is important to use precise language and avoid vagueness. I have learned that it is important to be thorough in my research and to have a deep understanding of the

subject matter before attempting to write a technical description. During my first attempt at writing this paper I had thought I knew everything just by looking at the product and doing a quick research but I was wrong. In addition, I have learned the importance of using visual aids, such as diagrams and illustrations, to help explain complex concepts. In the draft of this paper my professor pointed out that I didn't add diagrams. These visual aids can make it easier for readers to understand the subject matter and can help to reinforce the information presented in the text. Another important lesson I have learned is the importance of organization and structure. This is also another thing I had to fix from my draft because I had everything but it was all unorganized. Technical descriptions are typically organized in a logical and sequential manner, with each step or process building upon the previous one. It is important to use headings, subheadings, and other organizational tools to help guide the reader through the text and make it easier to follow. Writing a technical description has taught me the importance of being clear, concise, and organized in my writing.

During this semester of English class I feel that I have learned a lot and grown as a writer. One of the most important things I have learned is the value of revision and editing. I have learned that careful editing and revision can greatly improve the quality of my writing. Another important lesson I have learned is the importance of being aware of my audience. I had an audience for each one of my papers and especially for the collaborative project. By understanding who I am writing for and what their needs and interests are, I am able to tailor my writing to best meet their needs. This means using appropriate language, tone, and style, as well as structuring my writing in a way that is most likely to engage and persuade my readers. Every paper I've done adds up to the collaborative project because for this we had to do research, review and technical description while working in a group. I have learned the value of research

and preparation. Before beginning any writing assignment, it is important to do thorough research on the topic at hand to ensure that you have a solid understanding of the subject matter. This includes reading articles, books, and other relevant materials, as well as gathering data. Breaking it down I now see how important small things are to complete an assignment, it is all teamwork.

Overall, my English class has been an invaluable learning experience. I feel that I have developed a greater appreciation for the art of writing and have gained the skills and knowledge necessary to be a more effective writer. This class was a new experience and I'm glad to have taken this class. I think I have learned more this semester than any of my other classes. Not only did this class help me grow but it helped me prepare for outside classes which also included lots of writing. I know I still need to get better but I am now aware of all the things I should be checking for when writing and know what things I specially need to work on. I look forward to applying these lessons in my future writing endeavors.