Bushra Begum

May 19, 2022

Professor Furlong

Writing for Social Science

Final Reflection

            This has been a bitter-sweet semester. I’m happy this semester is coming to an end. It hasn’t been easy to commit to a college. Aside from having many classes

with my friends the workload has gotten to me numerous times. At times I’d feel

very overwhelmed with all of the assignments I am assigned and I’d feel unsure

about where to start. Although I complete all of the assignments given to me on

time, because of the pandemic, I have become more laid back and get my assignments done last minute. This writing for social science class which I took for a semester was more on the easy-going side, aside from the assignments. Doing all of these essays was definitely a headache but I believe it has helped me improve my

writing.

            The essays I have done this semester for ENGL 21002 are my personal artifact, peer interview, research study, and a mini-ethnography. The essay on my personal artifact required me to speak about something which has a great meaning to me, for me this was my hijab.  The peer interview was an assignment where I had to interview a classmate of mine asking them a handful of questions, This assignment was a buildup for our mini-ethnography.  The research study paper which we did was also a way to prepare us but to also gain knowledge on the subculture we chose to write about. This way I learned that many of us have a hobby which is a way for us to relieve stress.

The mini-ethnography was doing two interviews with bakery owners. I was lucky to have a relative who was in this field however, I did do an interview with a bakery owner

 in harlem.  I was impressed and learned a lot from speaking with the two

people.

          When beginning my papers personally I prefer to sketch down what I will be writing in each paragraph. If This is not done I feel more overwhelmed and uneasy. When I am done writing my essay I often go back, reread my essay, and fix grammar mistakes. I have developed strategies for reading writing, drafting, and editing. I do this at least twice before handing in my first or final paper. The most challenging paper I have done this semester was my personal artifact. To me, I felt like it was the hardest because I was unsure about what exactly a personal artist was. However, I did figure it all out and it all went well.

           The most time-consuming paper I did this semester was my mini-ethnography. Doing interviews and needing to meet new people isn’t exactly what I’m good at. The people I interviewed were very open and polite. I do believe for my first-ever interview I did great. For every individual interviewed, I tried my best to make the individuals feel comfortable around me and I’d say I succeeded in doing so. The mini-assignments, small homework submissions, peer reviews, class discussions, and instructor feedback we did throughout the class helped me improve my writing. The vocabulary which I use when writing has improved from the beginning of the semester. It has helped me get better at grammar as well. All of these things were definitely not easy to improve on and it took time.

           Throughout this semester, I have explored many different genres and rhetorical situations. In class, we have read fiction and nonfiction stories. In the field book, there were many ethnographies. I have engaged in collaborating with individuals in the aspect of writing. I’ve done three separate interviews, one being a classmate. When writing the research study I have learned to find media and scholarly based sources. At first, it felt impossible to find media and scholarly sources online however, after searching on the internet for a while I found a few sources relating to my research study. I have learned to practice the systematic application of citation conventions. Personally, I am not too familiar with citing sources but have learned some because of this class. I have used Grammarly throughout this semester to help me with my writing. There are always errors in my writing which I do not recognize however, Grammarly helps me point them out. This has helped me greatly with all of the papers I was assigned for all of my different classes.

           I am grateful to have professor Furlong as my professor. I am sure it was to be a different professor I would have had a possibility of having a hard time. Many times when I am assigned professors who are too hard I have a hard time learning. Throughout this semester I have more than expected. Although this semester was tough especially because this semester was my first in-person semester I tried my best in each and every assignment assigned to me by not only professor Furlong but every other professor I’ve had this semester.