

Professor Rodwell

Self-Reflection Essay

Creating a narrative essay initially seemed to be a very easy task because it was basically a story about me. However, this essay was not as easy as I had once thought. I struggled to create a “sound” thesis and allow for my essay to flow properly. Luckily I had many guides to direct my thoughts and ideas to create a good narrative essay. These guides included my personal outline, the aspects of a rhetorical situation, and some of the course learning outcomes. With the aid of these guides I was finally able to refine my essay.

The first thing that I had decided to do before writing my essay was create an outline of what I wanted to discuss in the narrative. My outline consisted of a topic, title, thesis statement, the main ideas to be discussed in the body paragraphs, and a conclusion. For my topic I wrote down a general statement, that would encompass the entire story. My title took a while because I wanted to make sure it was an attention grabber and related to the narrative. Then, came my thesis statement, which was another thing I struggled to create, but I at least tried to make my position clear while writing it down. The main idea portion of the outline was the easiest thing in my outline to do because I already knew what topics I wanted to discuss and how to make it flow. Lastly, in the conclusion I made sure that my statement there would tie into the thesis statement I made earlier. After creating this outline, I went straight into writing my first draft.

After I finished my first draft, I decided to do a small analysis of my work. I based this analysis on the aspects of a rhetorical situation which include purpose, exigence, audience,

genre, and stance. I took an overall look at my essay and at the moment it seemed that I successfully got my purpose and motivation across and moved onto the audience. I know that the audience might seem easy to discern, by basically stating that my audience would be my classmates. But, I also wanted to make sure that the audience could relate in some way to the narrative, which in the end I decided that I did a good job. Next, was determining the genre, which was a narrative. One of the course learning outcomes also helped me to assure that my genre was actually a narrative. This is because in class we analyzed two narrative essays and I already had a general guideline on how a narrative essay should appear. The last aspect of a rhetorical situation that I observed was my stance which was basically my tone throughout the narrative and looking over it I saw that my tone kind of wasn't all the way clear. Not knowing how to fix this issue, I decided to wait until we did peer reviews.

Finally, I was able to bring my first draft to class and allow my peers and professor to review it. This aspect of creating a good narrative essay was very beneficial to me. My peers were able to point out a lot of my mistakes and gave me valuable feedback. The multiple perspectives allowed me to see my missteps and things that I didn't notice myself on my first run through of my paper. After class, I was able to edit and revise my paper properly, even after I finished my first draft, I made sure to give a deeper analysis of the paper to make sure that I hit all points. I believe in the end, I was able to make a narrative essay that's really good, not only for the reader, but for me as well.