

Professor Rodwell

Self-Reflection Essay

Creating an exploratory essay was very challenging for me because I never analyzed sources this deeply before. I struggled to create a good intro and allow for my essay to flow properly. Luckily I had many guides to direct my thoughts and ideas to create a good exploratory 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 exploratory essay. 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 what I'd be discussing on throughout the essay. My title took a while because I wanted to make sure it was an attention grabber and related to the essay. 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 sources 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 understand the premise of the whole essay, which in the end I decided that I did a good job. Next, was determining the genre, which was a critique. One of the course learning outcomes also helped me to assure that my genre was actually criticism. This is because in class we analyzed two academic journals and its sources. The last aspect of a rhetorical situation that I observed was my stance which was basically my tone throughout the essay 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 wasn't able to bring my first draft to class. However, I was still able to get some help from my peer's essays and look how they formatted their essays. This aspect of creating a good exploratory essay was very beneficial to me. 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 an exploratory essay that's really good, not only for the reader, but for me as well.