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English 110

Professor Velez

During this semester in English 110 my writing and reading comprehension has improved. I learned about how to analyze the rhetorical situation of a piece of literature, new subject matter, how to correctly use citation conventions, and how to effectively locate and analyze scholarly sources.

Due to the first phase I am far more aware of language discrimination and effects of it. Before this semester I knew some people struggled to speak English but I never thought on that topic and further. After reading Amy Tans and June Jordans piece, and watching Safwats Ted Talk I am aware that this is a deeply pressing issue that has life-changing consequences. While reading these pieces I, “Explored and analyzed…. variety of genres and rhetorical situations.” I learned that it is wrong to impose your own sense of normality on others since normality is a construct.

“Safwat Salem a Ted talk responded to criticism of his accent in his line of work, voice acting,

and in turn questioned the idea normality. He believes that we should challenge the idea of

normality for the betterment of society or we risk losing our unique identities. During this Ted

talk Safwat uses many rhetoric features to appeal to the reader. He appeals to pathos, ethos, and

chose an appropriate outlet to effectively persuade listeners.”

Writing an essay on Saleem's speech made me consider his ideas on a subject that was unfamiliar to me. This helped me to, “Recognize the role of language attitudes and standards in empowering, oppressing, and hierarchizing languages and their users, and be open to communicating across different languages and cultures.”

During this semester I learned about acknowledging and referencing the rhetorical situation. When writing the Phase 2 essay about Safwat Saleem I had to analyze how he used logos and pathos to persuade his audience. In my phase 3 essay I had to consider the rhetorical situation of each of my own sources and how they would play into my own rhetoric. Using these sources and analysis in my writing helped me find a balance between source work and my own commentary and I “Recognize and practice key rhetorical terms and strategies when engaged in writing situations.”

The phase 3 essay taught me the most this semester and also compounded on the lessons I had learned previously. The library class was very informative and contained lessons I will carry past this class and for the rest of my life. Learning how to effectively search for relevant scholarly articles was something that I had struggled with previously. In high school they would task me with using scholarly articles without any guidance, which would lead to me trying to make irrelevant sources useful. However by using the advanced search methods and being cunning and specific with your searches you can find meaningful sources with ease. I learned how to “Locate research sources (including academic journal articles, magazine and newspaper articles) in the library’s databases or archives and on the Internet and evaluate them for credibility, accuracy, timeliness, and bias.” This essay also helped me toe the line between source work and analysis. Previously I was prone to "cold" quoting which ruins the flow of an essay. When you acknowledge the source properly and provide commentary to your quotes and paraphrasing it flows much better.

This essay also compounded the rhetorical situation lessons I learned from phase 2 of the course. In phase 2 I had to acknowledge the rhetorical situation of a source given to me with a relatively explicit rhetorical situation, whilst in phase 3 I had to evaluate the rhetorical situation of my own chosen sources and tie that into my own rhetoric, “Compose texts that integrate your stance with appropriate sources using strategies such as summary, critical analysis, interpretation, synthesis, and argumentation”.

The assignments that stood out to me were the cover letters. These were unique assignments that I had never seen before. Usually teachers allow you to reflect and chat about your essays after they're graded but it is very brief. This immediate reflection and evaluation of your own rhetoric helped me make some revisions to my essay before submitting and allowed me to acknowledge what I learned.

I recognized the hierarchy of languages and the effects through the evaluation of pieces from June Jordan, Amy Tan, Safwat Saleem. I explored different genres and rhetorical situations through the analysis of pieces selected by my professor and scholarly sources found on my own. Through each phase essay I had to draft and plan, and then in class I engaged in revising and editing in a collaborative and social way, “Engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes”. In the phase 3 essay I integrated my own argument with scholarly sources and acknowledged their rhetorical situations. In this essay I also practiced citation conventions by using in-text citations and a works cited page in MLA format, ”Practice systematic application of citation conventions”.

Works Cited

Persaud, Aaron. “Rhetorical Analysis of Safwat Saleems Ted Talk”. English 110, 2022