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Introduction

Taking English 250 was honestly a great experience for me, it helped remind me of why I enjoyed writing so much in high school. In high school I took honors English classes and then took AP Literature and AP Language my junior and senior year respectively. These classes helped me organize my ideas, taught me how to write a paper that can hold a reader’s interest, and improved my public speaking skills. I feel like I lost some of these skills since my last English class in high school due to lack of use. Coming into English 250 it had been about a solid year since I had last taken an English class, so I was eager to refresh myself on how to be a decent writer. I believe that English 250 has increased my proficiency in writing academic papers, presenting my ideas in front of an audience, and designing visual presentations.

Before English 250, I was in the habit of planning my papers meticulously before committing to writing the paper. This habit came from my AP U.S. History class where we learned how to write papers for a Document Based Question, these papers I always made sure to plan out what my thesis would be and my supporting paragraphs before writing. I think I lost this skill over the last year due to my lack of writing so I had to relearn it for English 250. I believe I managed to relearn this skill and now plan my papers out before starting the writing process. My ideas mainly come from previous books I read in high school like Crime and Punishment, To Kill A Mockingbird, and Lord of The Flies; these are some of my favorite books to reference in a paper if I have to. In English 250 I made great use of my peers and my group to help make my papers the best that they can be. This was new for me and I’m appreciative of the great constructive feedback I received over the course of the semester. Along with peer review, reviewing rhetorical strategies like ethos, pathos, and logos was great for me because it helped me analyze arguments more effectively.

The multiple editorial presentations that we did for English 250 helped me become more confident presenting in front of classes. In the past I would get incredibly shaky and nervous when speaking in front of class, but I only had that problem at the beginning of English 250. As the semester progressed, I felt more comfortable speaking in front of class. I could maintain eye contact and not stare at a note sheet that I brought to the front. Not only presenting in front of class, but I worked on facilitating small group discussions in a productive manner.

Going hand-in-hand with my improved presentation skills, I worked on making quality PowerPoint slides for when I had to present in front of class. I kept my slides concise, I made sure to include graphics, and I was able to talk in front of my peers for longer than I ever have before. Most challenging use of the WOVE method was definitely revising my papers and editing, I had trouble disciplining myself to go back and fix mistakes.

Overall, my growth in the WOVE methods is basically night and day, I’m refreshed on my writing, I was able to overcome my fear of public speaking, and I’m better equipped to make presentations. I think making this e-portfolio is only going to strengthen my ability to write and revise my papers, while simultaneously bolstering my design skills.