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English 1A

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My English course in the summer

I am writing this letter so that you can read my thoughts, my self-evaluation and what remains for me from this course. In this letter I am going to write about my work and experiences in class. Throughout this course I learned several techniques that I didn't know, first I learned how to use canvas since I personally was unaware of the system and how it worked. Second, I learned many new lenses and ways to respond to people through discussions, this helped me improve as a writer and improve my writing quality. Third I learned to use the MLA format, I had never used it before, I always used the APA format, but with the paper and the essay I learned different things in MLA format, such as: Block quote, quote in text, the format of a paper, quotes of books and web pages, how to present a title in a paper and how to make an annotated bibliography. All this will remain in my learning and will help me to overcome other courses.

This course is the first time I have written such a long paper and essay. I usually didn't write so many words of just one thing. Likewise, I felt comfortable with the amount of words and I feel that they were not exaggerated, but it was something new for me and I feel that I can already face big writings. Throughout the course I write many different texts, including class discussions, the research paper and the compare and contrast essay.

First we wrote the research paper that was about a company's unethical practices, for this I chose Shein. MY propurse on writing my research paper, "Shein unethical behavior"

was to communicate all the bad practices of Shien. I like my conclusion, I think that addresses all the points and convince the reader to make a change and to not help Shein. I also like my introduction, the start was precise and direct to the topic I want to talk about. That gives the reader a clear idea of what I am going to talk about. I think that my vocabulary was not the best, there are many words that can be changed to improve tone and understanding of the paper, especially incorporating some technical words will be good for the Ethos part of my essay. Other things that I could improve would be to look for more sources of information that would help to support my claim and also for the counter argument. I feel that there was a bit of direct information missing, although I still think that I met the information requirements. I would have liked to have more sources and more credibility.

On the other hand, I think my compare and contrast essay was my best writing, titled "Passionate experience of Jones vs Strong facts of Fetherling". I wrote about two writers who wrote about the life of Jones, Jones and Fetherling. In the essay, talk about their different uses of appellation, evidence, tone, and style of writing. Describing Jones's autobiography as a firsthand experience, she appeals to his readers for his passionate writing. On the other hand Fetherling wrote more historical facts and described Jones in the history of labor activism. I like how I compare these two sources. I use the block by block method, writing a paragraph for each writer and for each paragraph I use a quote that is related to what I want to express. I think that part of the structure turned out well, it is well organized and easy to understand. I also like my analysis throughout the essay, it was clear, precise and supports the claim. But as there are always parts to improve, I think my essay contains some words that were not used properly, some confusions because I am a Second language English learner and it is difficult to understand the tone of some words or what exactly means in different contexts. Something

that I really liked about the course was when they gave us the paper with the “Commonly Confused Words,” this helped me a lot to understand some words that I had not fully clarified. There are many words that I am still confused with but this was a great improvement.

One of the problems I faced in this course was that at the beginning of the second week of the course my parents took all the cars because they needed to work and they also couldn't take me to the college. So from that moment I had to walk from my house to the college with all the sun on my face. From my house to the college it takes about 25 minutes walking and I know that is not much, I really like to walk but the problem here is the sun. I'm a person from cold climates. Almost all my life it was in a cold place. That's why summer here is very exhausting for me. Since I don't have a car or some transport like a bicycle to use, I have to walk those 25 minutes every day there and back. There are times when I get a little tired but still after sitting for a while in class I was fine. I always carry a bottle of water with me since I consider it very important to hydrate well. I know this is not a big problem but walking in the sun exhausts me a lot on a daily basis.

My grandfather is a person really important to me. He studied law and now works teaching in a university. One of his hobbies is reading, he has many books. Whenever I ask him if he knows a book he knows it. He loves to talk and most of the time we have a conversation ends in a monologue. But I really like that, hearing him is one of the most relaxing things that I can do. When I was a boy, my grandfather read books with me and taught me words that were complicated for my age. I was a very logical and math kid just like my dad, and still am, so I didn't understand my grandfather's obsession with reading. The whole part of reading books and writing was taught by my grandfather, my grandfather made

me love classical music and books. About 4 years ago I had to do my first essay for a class. My grandfather helped me to understand how to do it, he was there to motivate me and he asked me how I was doing and what ideas I had, this helped me to be more organized with my ideas. Now every time I feel lost or I don't know what to do in an essay I talk to him for a while, it helps me a lot to tell him the ideas I'm having and how I'm facing the essay, it helps me to organize my mind. After telling him everything I'm doing, my grandfather begins to speak. I pay attention to his words since he always ends up giving motivation and clearing my mind. One day when I was talking to him about the compare and contrast essay he said something like, "Keep looking and you'll find something you like to compare Mother Jones with, try to look at some books to see how it goes"(Sepúlveda) This phrase help me a to stay motivated with my essay and that night I find an read an autobiography of Jones written by Fetherling. I thank my grandfather for giving me the passion to write and read and help me in times when I'm lost.

Based on the article, "A call to the Fields" Nareh a classmate of the course wrote a reply to this article, then I wrote a reply to her about humans capacity to damage the word and the big responsibility in humanity:

Hi Nareh, your reply makes me think about the capacity that people have to transform things in the environment and the many damages or benefits that they can bring to us. I find that it is a very big responsibility for humans to transform the resources that the environment gives us into useful things or at least things that do not damage the environment. I think that in the history of humanity there are too many inventions that have damaged the environment or even inventions that are capable of destroying in seconds, like the atomic

bomb. I am not saying that humans have only brought bad things, but big problems like climate change have been brought by humans. (Hidalgo)

I like this reply, I think that I did a good job reviewing the importance of human responsibility for the choice that they have to create good things or bad things. Nareh gives an example that the cocaine plant is used to create a bad drug and not used to create medicine. I reinforce this by questioning human decisions on the word, and how some big issues like climate change are damaging the planet.

The summer English course has been an invaluable journey of self-improvement and learning. Through the course, I have gained various writing techniques, including canvas usage, new lens, and understanding the MLA format. The experience of writing a research paper and compare and contrast essay has been both challenging and rewarding. While I recognize areas for improvement, such as vocabulary and source credibility, I am proud of the overall structure and analysis in my essay. Additionally, the support and inspiration from my grandfather, who cultivated my love for reading and writing, have been fundamental in my growth as a writer. Facing transportation challenges, I remained determined to excel in the course, driven by my passion for learning. Engaging in meaningful discussions with classmates learning and discussing ideas. As the course concludes, I am filled with gratitude for the knowledge gained and look forward to applying these skills in my future academic pursuits and beyond. This journey has instilled in me the confidence to face bigger writing challenges and the belief that continuous improvement is the key to success in the realm of language and expression.

Work Cited

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