

Natalie Hernandez

Writing For the humanities and Arts

Portfolio Essay

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Reflection

Throughout this past semester, there's things that I've learned and stuck with me while there are still things that I'm still working on when it comes to the writing/English classes. Taking Writing for the Humanities and Arts this semester, I've definitely gained a few skills here and there and learned new things. With one of the first units, I've learned how to understand different types of literacy rather than novels and booklets (as shown in the later units). We got into reading people's blogs or stories on situations and learned about rhetorical analysis. Reading different news sources and articles helped me develop a literacy learning factor on that. With Rhetorical analysis, I learned to question the author and their credibility, the audience its for and how the author or writing is presenting that information, the authors strategy and purpose. Stance was also an important factor to pay attention to. Reading "The rhetorical situation" by Lloyd Bitzer from this unit, i remember the quotes striking out to me, "A tree does not obtain its character-as-a tree from the soil, but rhetorical discourse, i shall argue, does obtain its character as-rhetorical discourse rom the situation which generates." and the other quote , states "A rhetorical work is analogous to a moral action rather than a tree. An act is moral because it is an act performed in a situation of a certain kind; similarly, a work is rhetorical because it is a response to a situation of a certain kind." I found these quotes interesting because it taught me

that a Rhetorical discourse focuses on the act of things rather than the character itself. The response and action is important. The intention stands out. This was something that stuck with me when reading rhetorical analysis now on.

Moving on to the next unit, it was a huge leap from reading rhetorical situations to now creating one. Creating the op ed, at first, was challenging. I was struggling with finding the right topic to talk about. I went from talking about Ai, to talking about trans rights in prisons (since my sibling is trans...but never went to prison) to finally talking about the right topic I knew I could talk about... mental institutions. A big factor that helped me choose a topic was the peer review we have after our first draft update on the unit. Talking with others and hearing their topics, I noticed it was all about how the person sharing their op ed topic was somewhat connected to them in a certain way. This helped me choose the topic of mental institutions and how it causes harm and needs to be changed/reformed. Talking with peers also somewhat helped me with my communication skills with speaking which could help me with future discussions with others. Writing the op ed was a bit challenging at first because of how personal it felt, but reading articles and blogs..that helped me with my writing skills on how to feel more comfortable and connect to the reader when writing op eds.

One of my favorite genres so far this semester was the study guide genre, it came out really fun to make because of the topic i chose to talk about a study guide with, Fashion! I've always loved dressing up and it really helped me when I had ups and downs in life. Fashion was a prominent thing in my life so making a study guide for it was really fun! In this unit specifically, one of the things I learned was learning about different genres and how genres aren't just books and they fall in a library section.. Genres are everywhere that include writing and communication. One of the homeworks where we had to list out the genres we noticed around us

was really helpful when understanding what a genre was and was fun to keep things in note for a homework assignment. Doing the online paper reviews and feedback really helped with how to form my study guide for this assignment. Making sure to have must do's and the don'ts, staying on topic, and having an overall guide for finding your style.

For the last assignment (the multi genre), I really enjoyed the experimentation we had on representing our op eds using different genres. One of the genres I chose was podcast/interview with my sibling. Recording this interview was a little tough but also comfortable to make. Having a space where we can record the experience for my sibling and telling their story was personal but since it was just us in the room, it felt comfortable. I'm glad I went this route to create an interview voice memo because I wanted to focus on tone for the audience to relate to and/or educate themselves on mental institutions. For the second part of the project, it was fun creating a collage and putting my artistic values into a topic I really cared about. For this part of the project, I used different prints from articles from mental institutions and art from people who've been in mental institutions and the exposed cases in these spaces. The intended audience for this piece are also people who are looking for more research for their loved one who are diagnosed with mental illness.

Overall, this semester, I learned alot about how to build and grow my writing ability with these different units. I also learned to grow on writing about research topics (citing them) and writing papers to strengthen the tones and writing op eds all in all.