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Writing for the Sciences

Professor K. Conroy

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Self Assessment

Throughout this semester I have grown my knowledge of writing a lot. At the beginning of the class, I was nervous about whether or not I would be able to handle my Chemistry, Calculus, and Speech class along with writing essays for this class. I also work outside of school, so the pressure was on. I quickly came to realize how efficient this class was and the simplicity of what had to be done. Professor Conroy explained the expectations of the class and each assignment well and that aided in the class running smoothly. I was previously uncomfortable with writing about science and translating work to simplify to make it easier to understand. Each and every assignment we had, connected to the other, and I saw how each was preparing you for the next. For example, we did a rhetorical analysis that led to a literature review, you must first analyze to then review something, further showing how each paper contributed to the next.

One course learning outcome that resonated the most with me is number 8, “strengthen your source using practices (including evaluating, integrating, quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, synthesizing, analyzing, and citing resources)”. I chose this outcome because it most fits what I struggled with when doing my assignments. I found that I could translate the quote by further explaining it, to better fit and support my claim. An instance where I exercised this learning outcome was in my literature review I go on to elaborate, Badgujar explains vaccine designing and the available past/historical efforts or experience of vaccine development against

SARS will be of great value in the present worldwide pandemic COVID-19 scenario considering the gene sequence homology of SARS and COVID-19 are very similar and both have urgent need of vaccine to control existing pandemic with a short period (Feliciano 2020, p. 4) This was in reference to a piece of the research that may have been confusing while talking about two different strains of COVID. I strengthened the source by making it more understandable and fitting to my review. This is one way I utilized this learning outcome and it has benefitted my writing.

Another learning outcome that resonated with me was number 4, “develop and engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes”. I chose this outcome because of the multiple peer reviews we have done throughout the semester. I think the peer reviews were very helpful and aided in giving each other different perspectives on the same topic. Every now and then someone would have a differing opinion that called my attention and kept things interesting for example in the vaccinepac chat thread, Afia reviewed my PAC draft and had the following comment, “Hi Nicole, Your work is amazing. You explained everything so beautifully. It is informative and easy to understand. I like that you also explained your visuals for greater understanding. As an audience, I felt very informed, which made me also feel safe because of how you explained it. I am not really sure who the call of action is for. Great work done.” (Slack 2020). By engaging in collaborative and social aspects of this writing process I was able to take her perspective of my call for action not being clear, to then go and make the necessary changes. I also know I accomplished what I wanted to because she felt informed and safe due to how I presented and explained my points.

Lastly, a learning outcome that still has yet to resonate with me is number 5, “engage in genre analysis and multimodal composing to explore effective writing across disciplinary

contexts and beyond to include public audiences”. I find this one particularly difficult because I do not do well with categorizing which type of genre a written work fits into. I can include the audiences I need to in my writing, I just feel I need to work on working with genre and maneuvering them into my pieces. This class was one of the ones I enjoyed the most because of how stress-free it was due to everything being accessible. I had ample examples of what needed to be done and how it should be executed. I appreciate this class very much and would recommend it to any other college student. Thank you!