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Final Metacognitive Essay

As I reflect on myself during this time in school I feel my comprehension and analysis skill is at the collegiate level. I am strong and gathering ideas to write about and develop new ideas to learn about on the same subject that I'm reading. I realize that I have no problem comprehending and analyzing as I'm reading, however, when it comes to actually putting words on paper, I tend to not put ideas or major points in the correct place to make the piece more comprehensive for the reader. Learning to reread what I have written helps me to correct and make adjustments to my original paper to better pair ideas. I enjoyed reading before however in situations like this I would normally be able to just skim across the article or write up and pull out the major points and gather correct information from there. However, taking this class I enjoyed actually reading everything more thoroughly to obtain further knowledge and better analysis. My mastery of comprehension and analysis skills is best exhibited in the assignments dealing with philosophy and stoicism. I feel that I understand and can relate very much to many of the entries that were studied in class.

Being a collegiate writer means having the critical thinking and writing skills to communicate with your audience about a particular subject or subjects. Proofreading has helped me a great deal in my writing, whereas before I'd just correct as I go along. As a writer I find myself still

struggling with coming up with a thesis statement or staying on topic and making everything flow. Somehow I seem to have missed the first diagnostic writing sample, however I do notice that in my writing I am more thorough in my finished product versus in the beginning I would be kind of vague. I'm still working on being more personalized when giving examples instead of being general. To assist me as I endeavor to become a better writer, I try to review and remember what was discussed in class and the examples given by the instructor when it applies, also I sometimes read or look up other assignments that are close to what we're doing and use that as a guide to give me ideas on how to continue with my current project. In my opinion, the essay I wrote on basic stoic principles was my best written assignment. I enjoyed it and I felt that it was the most clear to me as we were studying and that helped me to be able to overflow with ideas and I was comfortable in choosing words to make my ideas flow better.

One of my biggest fears was doing presentations and this class helped me to be a little more open to speaking publicly in a sense. My first major experience was in our first break out group. I was the one who did most of the talking and also writing for everyone in the group and that's something I had never done before. I gained so much confidence in speaking just from that little encounter. My presentation on video wasn't so scary. I feel that my best presentation was the East versus West partner presentation. Again it allowed me to gain confidence because it was something that I did on my own and came up with my face and I was able to present it to the instructor, and I made a decent grade on it so I'm very proud of myself for that. I'm saying it this way because I am extremely shy, simply put.

Being a critical thinker is being able to analyze what you're thinking of and reconstruct your thoughts. As a critical thinker, when analyzing or thinking I think of the pros and cons, the ins and outs of everything. I am good at decision making, and explaining, I observe more than I

speak. I am a person that can agree to disagree with people and still have a decent conversation with reasoning. I can think clearly and logically and put ideas together and make it make sense. As far as critical thinking, I believe there is always room for improvement but I feel that I am in a good spot when it comes to that. Since taking this class I think even more thoroughly than before. All of my assignments were very well thought about. There is not one that I can choose to say I didn't think it through at all.

At first I was nervous about taking this class again because I'm not a big talker as I described before. My motivation in this class began with how the professor handled the class and it made me feel comfortable about opening up. I was just thrown in to speak in front of people that I don't know, which was one of my biggest fears, after that it was uphill from there. What kept me motivated the most is seeing the feedback from submitted assignments. I always wanted to do better on the next assignment to prove to myself that yes, you understand and yes, you are really getting this. Yes, there were times when I was less motivated. For some reason, before an assignment I'd be unsure that I'd do a good job, but the instructor and the assistant were always very encouraging. I felt free to ask questions if there was something that I didn't understand or wasn't quite sure about. The very last time, so far, that I felt a little less motivated was for my unit 3 essay, only because I was thinking that I may be hospitalized, so, I submitted it early to be sure that I had turned in my essay, just in case. However, I resubmitted it after revising it anyway. Other than that I've been okay and confident for the most part.

My two most memorable classroom experiences was the first time I spoke on the camera in front of people I didn't know which boosted my confidence. I realized that it was nothing to be afraid of, and, working together on a discussion with a game that we played for extra points. With that one I felt that I can be a leader and speak openly.

One thing I wish I would have known before taking this class was that it would be structured the way that it was because at first I didn't know that we would be on camera at a particular time. At first I was freaking out about it because of my shyness and work schedule, until I settled in and accepted the fact that this is what it was going to be. It wasn't so bad after all. I would recommend anyone to take this course because it's very thorough and it allows you to make mistakes and the instructor is there to help you to be a better student, they really believe in you and what you can do. A few major takeaways from this semester's course is don't be afraid to ask questions. If you make a mistake, try again. Don't be quick to jump to conclusions before you think about it or let yourself experience it. Put forth effort to achieve what you set out to do, don't just try to do it for a grade. I plan to continue to implement these things into whatever I do in the future because believing in yourself and actually trying really works.