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Process Essay

My relationship with writing hasn't changed much since the beginning of the semester. Writing still feels like a chore for me. One thing that did change is that I'm more confident in my writing skills now than I was before the start of the semester. I used to just jump into a paper without any pre-writing process but now I know that my writing is better when I properly prepare. I have created a new process for myself that has made me a stronger writer. I first start on my pre-writing process.

At the start of the semester, I didn't do any pre-writing. After our first project I realized that I needed to plan out my papers better. I started by creating outlines that helped me plan how I wanted my paper to be written. Depending on what the paper was I would also take this time to get my research done. To do that I would either have a piece of paper or a blank document open so I could put all my findings in one place. Even though it isn't much, adding these two things to my writing process has made the act of writing go much smoother. I plan to continue creating outlines and collecting my research before starting a paper. After my pre-writing is done, I start my first draft.

One of the most valuable things I learned this semester was that the first draft is allowed to be shitty. Before, I thought the first draft needed to be the final product with minor errors that would be fixed afterwards. Now, for the first draft, I write what comes to mind and in the next draft I take what was good from the first draft and build on it. Once I have the second draft done,

I will check it over and if all looks good, I'll go to the next step of my writing process. If I don't think the second draft is done, then I will make a third. Even in the third draft I have found myself re-writing whole paragraphs. If I like how the third draft looks and reads, then I will go on to the next step of my writing process.

What I do next is get someone to look over my writing. I will either have a friend look over my work or I will get my mom to look over it. Having someone else look over my work brings fresh eyes that can point out issues that I didn't see before. Having a peer look over my work can also give me new ideas to make my writing better than it was. I like to ask them to point out typos as well as give their opinion on what could make my writing better. Even though I go over my writing multiple times I sometimes miss typos. A peer has an easier time seeing those because it is their first time reading the text, so typos are less likely to go unnoticed.

Something that peer review also helps with is the incorporation of research. A peer can point out where quotes could be needed or where they aren't. I sometimes don't put any quotes and, most times, my peer will point out places where a quote could/should be used. This gives my writing more credibility. If I quote a credible source about my topic then it shows that I know what I'm talking about. Other than using quotes I use all the information I gathered during my pre-writing process. Depending on the topic, all my knowledge comes from the research I do before writing. When my writing is done, I sometimes like to go back, and fact check my information one more time to make sure I'm not misinforming the reader. When I'm done with that, I start the revision process.

My revision process is basic. I like to make a list of the things I want to change and need to improve. I'll go down that list and fix any typos along the way. After I have run through the list, I will read my final draft repeatedly to make sure I catch as many typos as possible.

Sometimes I'll read out loud, but I usually just read in my head. Reading out loud helps me catch typos easier because I'm not just glossing over the words but saying them.

Before the start of the semester, I had two steps in my writing process, write and then revise. Now I plan my writing, get my research together, get a peer to review my work, make multiple drafts and take more time on my revision process. This has improved my writing exponentially. I plan to continue using this process and refining it as I continue my writing journey.