

Major Project II Reflection

For this assignment, my process developed through both drafting and revising my essay using course concepts like genre and rhetorical situations. I chose to focus on social media as a genre from the beginning and analyzed how platforms like Instagram and TikTok have different expectations and styles of communication. As I worked on my draft, my ideas became more specific, especially when I started identifying patterns in how people post, interact, and respond to content. During revision, I refined my thesis to more clearly explain that each platform functions as its own genre with unique purposes and conventions. I also adjusted my examples to better reflect my own experience, including how I use Instagram in a more “official” way while interacting more casually with content on TikTok.

Several course concepts were important in helping me complete this assignment, especially the idea of genre as a “typified response to recurring situations” and the concept of genre knowledge. It was somewhat challenging at first to apply these academic ideas to something as informal as social media, but working through the essay helped me understand how these concepts apply to everyday communication. The idea that genre knowledge develops through participation was especially useful because it connected directly to how users learn by scrolling, liking, commenting, and sharing posts. This helped me see that communication on social media is not random, but shaped by patterns and expectations that users learn over time.

The feedback I received from my peers was helpful in improving my essay. They suggested that I make my thesis more specific, add more detailed personal examples, and strengthen my conclusion so that it goes beyond just summarizing the paper. In response, I made several global revisions, including rewriting my thesis, expanding my examples, and improving my conclusion with a stronger final idea about communication and adaptation. I also corrected citation issues to make my essay more professional and aligned with MLA format. Overall, this assignment helped me better understand how genre applies to everyday communication and showed me the importance of revision in strengthening my writing. If I had more time, I would continue refining my analysis and adding more examples, but I feel that my final draft clearly demonstrates my understanding of the topic.