

Final Paper Reflection

Throughout the process of writing this paper, I felt that it was imperative to tap into my career as a professional athlete. Being a professional athlete requires great work, a lot of sacrifice, and many sponsors. My literacy sponsors extend beyond the normal realm of academic literacy sponsors and institutions. These sponsors include my coaches, my skating federation, and my friends who help me to learn multiple languages. Upon starting this assignment, I realized that I had to learn many new terms, such as “code-meshing.” Learning these new concepts and vocabulary words was imperative to the success of this assignment, given that I had to explain my own literacy sponsors and describe how I use code-meshing in my day-to-day life. I don’t believe I had any difficulty understanding and implementing these concepts since I was already familiar with most of them before beginning the assignment. I wasn’t familiar with code-meshing before, but after seeing the definition, I realized that I had been doing it all along. After learning what code-meshing is and relating it to my experience, it was a lot easier to connect it to the main idea of the essay and relate it to my literacy sponsors as well.

The feedback that I received from Professor Vasquez was extremely helpful in improving my essay. One of the most important things that I learned from the feedback from Professor Vasquez was that I often rely too much on paraphrasing and don’t include direct citations. This makes my text seem inauthentic and not based on facts. To fix this, I added a direct quote defining literacy sponsors and made sure to clearly explain it in my own words afterward. Another important piece of feedback was to include more specific examples. I realized that I was being too general, especially when talking about my coach, so I added a detailed example of a training moment where I was corrected on musical timing. I also expanded my paragraph about the science behind athletics by including examples of recovery, nutrition, and balancing training. These changes made my essay more detailed and helped support my points more effectively.

Throughout this assignment, I learned that literacy is much broader than just reading and writing. Upon reflecting on my own life experiences, I realized that literacy can encompass things like sport, travel, and communication. One of the biggest challenges for me was balancing my personal experiences with academic analysis. I am comfortable writing about my own life, but I struggled at first to connect those experiences to course concepts in a clear way. Over time, I improved this by being more intentional about explaining how my examples related back to literacy sponsors and code meshing. This assignment also helped me see my strengths, like using personal examples, while also showing me that I need to work on being more specific and precise in my explanations. If I had more time, I would continue refining my wording and possibly add even more detailed examples, but overall, I feel that my final draft shows a lot of improvement from my earlier version.