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Cover Letter Phase 2

Phase 2 of English 110 allowed me to view writing from a different angle and objectively. Phase 1 assignment focused on our point of view and was opiniated. Phase 2 assignments introduced me to a new style of writing and analyzing texts. I now read texts in a different manner than before. I explored and analyzed, in writing and reading, a variety of genres and rhetorical situations. Completing the rhetorical analysis essays gave me a chance to improve my writing and analytical skills.

At first, when writing the rhetorical analysis essay, I found it extremely hard to differentiate analyzing and summarizing. I found myself summarizing the text and talking about the five Ws. It wasn’t after I read examples and revised my drafts did I realize that, although it does include the five Ws, rhetorical analysis places emphasis on the what, why, and how. What is the author arguing/refuting/defending? Why are they doing it? How are they getting their points across i.e. what rhetorical strategies do they use? With this understanding, my analytical skills and reading comprehension improved!

Peer review and practicing analyzing rhetorical strategies in class was helpful in completing my assignments. Reading my classmates work and receiving feedback allowed me to view the same article or piece I was analyzing at a completely different angle. Going over articles and watching YouTube videos while the professor explains methods also helped my understanding of the assignment and what was required of me. Even more, I realized that identifying who your audience is effects what you analyze in a text. For example, I chose an article about the effect immigration has on language for my 2nd rhetorical analysis essay. I identified that my audience would be: (1) Immigrants and their children who move to another country and their adaptation of the language and (2) Individual's native to the country and are witnessing the changes in their language. Understanding who my audience is allowed me to tailor my essay to appeal to their point of view.

Phase 2 assignment gave me the chance to take on an objective style of writing. To analyze the facts and keep my personal opinions out of my analysis. The skills developed during these assignments has helped me in assignments for my other classes such as US History and Introduction to Jazz. Writing and language is an important part of our life and it is like clay, it has the ability to take on any form and shape.