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Rhetorical Analysis Essay 3

My Written Literacy and Language Narrative is built on my experience of studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain. I began my essay by describing language and how important it is in our everyday life and how it played an important role in shaping my experience in Spain. I used personal anecdotes and descriptive language to immerse my audience into my story to better understand the feelings I was experiencing abroad. The nature of this essay allowed me to build pathos and ethos and encourage my audience, which is anyone who comes across this essay, to step outside of their comfort zone and be receptive to experiences life has to offer.

My first anecdote was of an uncomfortable, but funny moment at the dinner table with my host family. It was an example of how little I knew about Spanish and the struggle I had communicating, but also showed my reader the lighthearted moment I had with people I had only known for a week. My host family were easygoing people who played a role in my rich experience. The purpose of this anecdote was to strengthen my argument of being open to new experiences and to think less and do more. Had I let fear overtake me, I never would have made the mistake which led to my improvement in the language. This universal experience of being afraid is something that my audience can relate to and allows me to build pathos.

As stated, I wanted to make my narrative very emotive and incite emotions in my reader. I used phrases such as: “mountain of similarities”, “sea of diversity”, and “engulfed with waves...” so that my reader can visualize the different scenarios. Throughout the narrative, I held an optimistic tone in all the experiences I described, depicting the positive benefits you gain from keeping an open mind. I then took my perspective from personal to general, helping my audience to understand that this experience goes beyond me and happens around the world every day. By describing the negative effects of having a narrow outlook and including the benefits I gained from being receptive to the world, I encourage the reader to become reflective of their actions. How they live their life and their attitude towards difference.

The aim of this narrative was to encourage my audience to take a step back and analyze themselves. Their attitude towards themselves and how it reflects in their treatment towards others. Furthermore, I wanted to show them how beneficial it can be to one’s wellbeing when they step outside of their safe haven and put them in uncomfortable situations that will help them to grow. I achieved this by using my personal anecdotes and descriptive language, creating an emotional connection between the reader and I and allowing room for persuasion.