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Writing for Engineering

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Self-Assessment Essay

In English 21007, I was required to write multiple engineering related documents, as we worked toward achieving the course learning outcomes. This course helped me enhance my writing and reading skills starting at the beginning of the semester. I'm not the biggest fan of reading in my daily life, however, since I took this class, I changed my mind. My desire to read, write and my analytical skills have vastly improved. In fact, I've never participated or spoken up in any of my other classes as I did in this class due to the encouragement we were given, as well as the equal and fair opportunity we had to speak up.

First, I learned many productive strategies and new methods that can be implemented when editing written documents from my peers during the peer review sessions. Furthermore, it was interesting for me to learn about the cultural backgrounds of my peers and their experiences. I was truly inspired to learn about other student's goals and what they want to achieve academically and personally. In addition, I have never imagined myself doing an experiment from home and writing an entire report listing learning outcomes. I enjoyed analyzing and collecting the data from my report - another skill I've acquired that will help me as a future researcher.

Second, I learned that there are many types of writing that help audiences and readers better understand what message is being conveyed. We explored symbolic non-formal writing where we used symbols, pictures, descriptions, and steps that can help educated or non-educated people to understand what we want to convey in this written document.

Third, throughout the course during this semester, we learned many different skills that will help us as future engineers. We covered many collaborative and social aspects, such as group projects that helped us to learn about the aspects of a real job environment. We learned how to plan for a project, and how to collect data and analyze it, and how to split tasks between group members. In addition, we discovered the communication and leadership skills of various group members. We have covered many types of writing, from a resume to a proposal and we gained extensive knowledge in learning what to include, and what we should avoid.

Fourth, we saw that every genre of writing consists of a different structure and components that you need to follow, such as a lab report that personally helped me to learn many effective ways to write a well-written document that I was not aware of previously. I did not know what an abstract was, or what analysis of results is, or how to write those two essential components for a lab report. In addition, in regard to the cover letter - something that I struggled to write in the past; I was not previously familiar with the appropriate written format. After we covered this in this class with Professor Thomas, I wrote an excellent cover letter that I will use to apply for jobs and internships. Additionally, we learned that each writing type carries its own judgments and its own audience that will judge how it looks to them. Each type should address its objective directly.

Fifth, we learned how to find sources from the CCNY (The City College of New York) database website, how to filter your research, and how to select what is a legitimate and trusted source for your research. We followed a step by step process in how to navigate the databases from A-Z and we did it many times during this semester.

Sixth, we used many resources from different databases that we were given access to during this semester. Throughout this process, we mastered how to integrate, quote, paraphrase, summarize and apply other techniques to our projects. However, the crucial one was the IEEE

citation format, which was new to all of us. As engineering students, learning and mastering how to use this format is extremely important because we will be using it throughout our entire academic and professional careers.

In conclusion, I was fascinated to learn about many outcomes that I was not expecting to learn about this semester. I am truly grateful to have been a student in Professor Thomas's class, as he created an interesting environment that encourages learning. While we were challenged with many assignments throughout the semester, both inside and outside of class, I have grown and become more knowledgeable in the process. I am confident that the challenges we were faced with this semester will better equip me and my peers for what's to come next semester.