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English 11000

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Dr. Wiggins

Self-Assessment Essay

Writing has always been important to me, as it is the bridge between my thoughts and the real world. Over the last 10 weeks here at City College, my experience has demanded standards that elevated my writing as a student. Out of the assignments given this semester in English 11000 the one that really stood out to me was the rhetorical analysis piece. After learning how to implement the rhetorical strategies of pathos, logos, and ethos and their relation to the audience and author, I am able to see the deeper meanings behind their writing.

Learning the use of rhetorical strategies has helped me better connect with my readers and audience. Something that showed me the power of writing is the rhetorical strategy pathos. Being able to find a reader's sympathy not only gives the story more meaning, but it also helps broaden the range for its intended audience. Pathos is an element of writing that evokes an emotional response from the reader. Being able to reach someone emotionally in my writing is important to me and something that I want to further improve upon. To me pathos is a crucial part of writing that brings meaning beyond standard factual writing, and it's where the personality of a writer can be seen.

One of the class readings that inspired me was June Jordan's personal essay, "Nobody Mean More to Me Than You And the Future Life of Willie Jordan." I felt that

this essay employs the power of pathos to convey the idea that English has many forms. This essay showed me the potential impact of someone's personal story on the perception of their writing. The story of Willie Jordan in this personal essay is an attempt to spark emotions in the reader. When implementing emotion into writing, people can relate to it despite their knowledge on the particular subject matter. Her essay aims not only to share an opinion but to encourage people to stand up for the right cause and come together under the umbrella that June is providing in the form of her personal essay while using these rhetorical strategies. Seeing this in her writing inspired me to support her cause and to work toward creating writing pieces that could have a similar effect on my audience.

There are only a few more weeks left. My first semester is almost over but I feel like things are just getting started. I feel my writing needs a lot of work and it's my goal to learn and improve throughout these next few years. I have learned the fundamentals of writing and now it is on me to make sense of it all. I am thankful for the opportunity to express myself in a reflective essay. It has allowed me to really think about what I'm doing and why I'm doing it. I see now that I have nowhere to go but forward.

To me, writing is more than just getting a passing grade. It is a tool that allows me to reflect and improve upon myself. Writing is a place of infinite possibility that validates abstract thoughts into relatable media. It is imperative that I learn to accurately communicate my ideas and thoughts in order to become a healthy and functional part of society. Learning and developing the skills necessary to read and write through my school career has been an irreplaceable experience. Without writing I am nothing.

Link to portfolio website.

<https://luigi2022.commons.gc.cuny.edu/this-is-a-news-post/>