Brandon Steup

ENG 111

Professor Hunt

This year, your writing class has been one of the more challenging ones that I have ever taken. Not only did you push what I already thought I knew about writing, you introduced me to new types such as investigative and how to properly write a rhetorical essay, with the most difficult essay being the persuasive.

This year has been a real roller coaster, and this class has been no exception. It started off and it seemed like it was going to be an easy class. The essay that made us talk about a traumatic event in our lives or a sequence of events was an easy one. It was something that I had been assigned I don’t know how many times throughout my academic career. As well as that, it was so open ended, meaning I not only didn’t have to do really any research, but could take the idea just about anywhere and still come out with a paper that met the benchmarks. It was very deceptive in a way because it made me have the wrong impression about the class right off the bat. It made me think that it was going to be an easy class, that I was going to be able to simply sail right through, little did I know how wrong I actually was.

The investigative essay was things really kicked into gear. It made the point that this was a class that was going to require more work then simply coasting through. Not only did it teach me how to properly research a topic, it also introduced me to all of the resources that I had at my disposal. It also taught me the correct format, APA, and how to research and cite things in said format. Given my research topic of whistleblowers, it was something that I had prior knowledge of, it made me really have to look at things and dive much deeper into it. It also gave me a new state of mind. I had always aced writing and reading classes with little to no effort. It’s something that I prided myself on. This completely blew this away. It made me reconsider if my skills were actually as good as my past academic experience had suggested. It made me understand that I had a lot left to learn. It showed me how little I actually knew and how different high school and college was. Funny thing was that this was only the tip of the preverbal iceberg.

I suppose that if the investigative was my wake up call, the rhetorical analysis was the thing that showed me what I am capable of. It has to be one of the best academic pieces that I have ever written, at least in following the benchmarks and producing a product that met them and went beyond them. It, in a way, taught me to take pride in my work and to try to produce as good of a paper as I can, not only from a perspective of trying to get a good grade, but also to prove to myself that I can. It gave me a massive boost to my confidence and also made me able to see it as something that was fun, not just another assignment to be done and turned in, but something that I actually had fun doing, and that I could also show what I can do. It was also something that I did in my spare time. I always have liked to pick apart things that I listen to or watch and try to figure out what they are really trying to say with the media and the message they are trying to convey. This would prove to be my best and most happy essay, however, and the year did start to drag on me.

The argumentative essay was really where the year wore on me. I did manage to get is done, however with it being the end of the year and everything with finals dragging on me I know that I probably could have done better. I think that I had the right idea, but I could have written more or I could have came up with a better idea. It always seems that we see the biggest flaws and the biggest successes in the things that we create, and this is, in my mind, one of the most lackluster essays I have ever written. However it did teach me a lot in simply writing it. I showed me the kind of endurance that I have, the kind of strain I can take before the cracks start to form. I see now what my breaking point is, and can begin to wkr on that and to make myself able to take more before I reach that point. It was perhaps one of the tings that taught me the most, and gave me the ability to see what I needed to work on and how tofic it. I need to just calm down and understand that I can do this, that I have the ability to get this done on time and that I don’t need to stress so much over it. Yes I need to make sure I get the work done and I need to make sure it gets done on time, but stressing over it is not going to get it done any faster. I need to keep a level head and sort through it in a logical way. This way when it comes time to deliver that finished product, I can make sure that every essay is as good as the analysis that I wrote. I wrote that one with a level head. I picked a topic that I knew, and was confident, and it showed. This one was the exact opposite, and that showed as well. It taught me that stress dose not help to accomplish anything, and that always being under the gun can only lead to a lackluster performance. I also could have managed my time better and worked on this in tandem with finals, instead of coming home and sleeping because I thought I had one more day and my head hurt from the test. I needed to power through it and just get it done.

All in all, this class was an amazing journey. I don’t think that anything really needs to be changed. I thought the pacing was perfect and the idea that if the class as a whole wasn’t ready that you allowed and extra day or two was amazing. It gave me the ability to work and, besides towards the end, not feel like I was under the gun to simply get an assignment out the door, and allowed me to focus on writing something that was quality and could be proud of. You are one of the best writing teachers I have ver had and your class was a blast to be in. I know I fell asleep sometimes and I do thank you for your understanding in that, but all in all one of the best classes I took all year. Thank you for the privilege and it was amazing to be your student. Hope you have an amazing Christmas and a good new year. ☺