

Jamal Dolah

Self-Assessment Essay

May 20, 2021

Prof. Sara Jacobson

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With the semester over I feel that I can properly look back and reflect on how I did this semester. By looking at previous assignments whether it's full blown essays or small in class assignments I feel I can properly assess myself as well as my work ethic and be able to judge how I changed over the course of the entire semester or if I stayed the same. I will compare the beginning of the semester when I was working on the lab report to working on the technical description that was a little later. Furthermore, I will compare myself to last semester when I had other classes that required me to work extensively on paper and assignments. For example, in my Public Policy class I had to write a seven to ten page paper for the final. I feel that comparing my work ethic towards an assignment of similar difficulty and length I can obtain an accurate depiction of myself this semester. Also, during the group project we just finished, I will go back and review my self-reflection. I think that if I compared myself in group assignments to myself in assignments by myself it would also help me see where I am currently. By reviewing my assignments and comparing my reflections across the semester I obtain an accurate depiction of myself and how I should assess myself.

With semester wrapping up I can honestly say that time really does fly and working on these assignments that were pages upon pages long felt like second nature. I can distinctly remember last semester when writing a lot was very hard. This was mostly due to the fact that the last time I wrote a lot before last semester was the college essay at the beginning of senior year of highschool. Then in my first semester when I was asked to write three pages for one of my classes I froze and it was a real struggle for me. However, when I was writing the for our first major assignment this semester the road block I was expecting did not really happen; let me elaborate. Like all writing sometimes you get stuck for extended periods of time. For this class as a whole that only happened when I got distracted. When I would write these assignments family would often come over my house and I had to zone out distractions. The most obvious of this is in the group presentations. In my part you can hear my little sister and my little cousins screaming in the background. I think I definitely learned how to just focus up and get the work i needed to done. Around the beginning of the semester my Dad, my grandparents and two of my dads brothers got COVID. One of my uncles ended up passing away in February and it was hard to just sit down and get anything done. What surprises me the most to was that I was not actually doing poorly on the assignments. I was getting respectable and average grades which was better than what I anticipated. One thing I did have to learn was MLA and APA formatting. I knew these formats existed but no teacher or professor before college has ever asked me about it at all. Learning how to write in those respective formats was a bit of a struggle and I had to teach it to myself. I can also say without a doubt that MLA is so much easier to write with. I noticed that when I had to do any assignment in APA formatting that was struggling a lot more. Abstracts as a whole were confusing to me at first but when I remember adjusting quickly. In my reflection I

remember saying something along the lines that I did not expect myself to write and abstract that well and the fact that I did was surprising to say the least.

I realized that I was actually better at writing than I was in highschool while I was working on the technical description assignment. I felt the most confident about this assignment especially because I was able to talk about something I genuinely interested in. Furthermore, being able to use a picture that took myself using my own hard drive as an example encouraged me more. While writing the self reflection for the technical description assignment I remember not feeling burnt out like the a very extensive assignment like the lab report analysis. As much as I did dread writing the long papers and assignments for this class I can say, without a doubt, that my writing did improve drastically. This is most likely due to three very different yet impactful factors. The first being how quick the semester went by. There was never a point where I felt like it was dragging on. I expected that in March because that's how it usually goes but it actually did not. Also when I had to fast for the month of Ramadan I thought time would slow but if anything it sped up. The second reason was that I was writing at a better tempo. I noticed that if I type slow I am indecisive and I usually don't focus that well. On the other hand, when I just vomit words into a google doc and make it up as I go it is usually better than what I would normally come up with. By tempo I do not mean my actual writing and the way it sounds I mean how much I actually write down. The third and last reason is because I made my own spotify playlist with chill and mellow beats that help me focus. Its a very diverse yet focused playlist. I have everything from the basic Lofi playlist on spotify to Minecraft songs by C418. This is probably the reason my writing got better and I don't doubt that one bit.

Moving on, when it came to group work I thought that we may have trouble communicating and usually I am the one to start the conversation and lead us into what we have to do next. I thought it was going to be harder to do that over zoom but it was actually just the same. Having Farida in my group was also a plus because she was in my class in middle school when she first came to America. The assignment as a group looked was a lot of work to do but once we split it up amongst ourselves it was actually a reasonable amount for each person. Recording the audio for the presentation was a new experience for me and I am still embarrassed that you can hear my sister and my little cousins playing in the background. I noticed that whenever I do anything group work related that I am always one out of at most two people that has to answer questions afterwards and if we did not think of a solution to a question someone asked come up with a good answer on the spot. I did this for multiple questions and it wasn't even because we were lazy we just did not think of these questions. I was always good at working in groups its just that sometimes I am hesitant because I do not know if my group mates are going to do the work. The written proposal of the assignment had a five page minimum and I thought we were going to not put enough. Funnily enough, we nearly doubled the required amount. The hardest part about the group work was actually coming up with something that we could actually write and research a lot about. This is supposed to be about writing but the writing was not an issue at all when it came down to it. The only thing that messed me up was the APA formatting which always gets me because I am still very new to it.

Enough talk about how I improved I still make a lot of the same mistakes. There would be times when I just check my phone and all of a sudden I am playing Clash of Clans and I just wasted fifteen to twenty minutes or I would go downstairs to get water then my Mom would ask

me to do three different things and I would end up losing a lot of time. Now I am talking about losing time and this would not be an issue if I did not write everything the day before it is due. Even as I am writing this it is a beautiful Friday and I am looking out window dying to play basketball. I often don't even touch or look at the assignment until a day or two before it is due. This is something that I have done my entire life and it is probably the reason why getting an assignment every class day annoyed me so much in middle school and high school. All in all, as much as I say my work ethic improved I still have bad habits that I have had my whole life.

Consequently, I feel that I have improved greatly this semester and my writing is definitely multiple steps up from what I would normally know it to be. This is mostly due to three very diverse and almost unrelated reasons. The three being how quick the semester went by, how much I was actually writing and by writing more I was able to use my quick thinking as a tool to better my writing, and finally the playlist I made on Spotify helped me out a ton by calming me down and helping me focus. Last semester I had trouble writing three double spaced pages and today I did that in a little over an hour. By comparing my different work ethics and how I approached the longer writing assignments I was able to better my writing and the amount of work I get done.