Halle Anderson

12/10/14

English 111

Reflection

This class has been a big learning opportunity for me. Coming into this course I was nervous because I didn’t know if I was prepared enough to take English 111 before taking English 110, but I’m glad I did. I’ve learned many different things from new ways to brainstorm, to how to write an academic essay, to even learning how to make an academic portfolio. I also feel that this class has challenged me to step out of my comfort zone at times such as sharing our work with the whole class through the forums on moodle, and talking about our essays through a class discussion. Although it can be uncomfortable, I’m glad you challenged me in that way. Here are some other things I learned through this course.

Discourse Communities- The first day of class we were asked to talk to our tables about a discourse community that we were a part of. I remember my whole table being confused as to what a discourse community even was. After discourse being a major topic in our class and writing a paper on it I know exactly what a discourse community is. Because the whole class was a part of English 111’s discourse community we all shared a similar language that people outside of the class would probably have no idea about. We had discussions that regularly involved terms like “problematizing” and “synthesizing” just to name a couple. Throughout the class I saw more and more how discourse was so relevant to our class.

Writing for Different Audiences- This was a big challenge for me. Our audiences varied from very casual to informative to very academic. In the first paper we had to write for an academic audience it was tempting to use words like “I” and “you” which are big no-no’s in those papers. In high school English we mostly stuck to informative or casual so that’s what I was used to. This class was the first time I was required to take an academic standpoint on a problem. It was very useful and a great learning opportunity to work on each voice.

Synthesizing a Paper- I learned to analyze articles my sources wrote to get an idea of each author’s stand point on my problem and to converse with each other through my paper. This was a challenge because it’s hard to get to know the source so well that you know exactly what they’re opinion would be on other source’s points of view. It was hard for me to wrap my head around what each source thought or felt. Some of the article’s I used as sources for my paper were hard to read because they spoke in terms that were greater than my knowledge so at times it was difficult to analyze what they were saying.

Problematizing an Issue- I now know how to look at something critically and make an academic problem out of it. Through examples you showed us I realized you can just about make anything a problem and if you know your sources well enough you could analyze the problem through what they think.