

Alexandra Arnold

### Portfolio Reflection

I have noticed multiple positive changes in my writing from the beginning of the year to this point. For example, at the beginning of the year I wasn't good at outlining my essay in a way that would flow nicely together. However, after this class I'm more confident in the outlining process and being able to put my essay together in a way that flows nicely (as seen in the profile essay). Another positive change I've made throughout this course is the ability to use synonyms for some words therefore I'm not using too much repetition. In the profile essay my first draft had a lot of Chantel, Chantel, Chantel, and a lot about the family. In the final draft, even though I still say Chantel a lot there are also some more pronouns like her and she instead of continually using her first name. Lastly, I have gotten much better with my spelling and punctuation. I used a lot of commas and had quite a few run-on sentences. I know I may still have one here and there but not like I did in my rough drafts.

Going off the previous paragraph, I have noticed that some of the writing and homework assignments have also helped me make positive changes in my writing. For example, I feel like the homework assignments with the quizzes at the end helped me not only by reading the materials but by quizzing me to ensure I understand what I just learned. I also liked how they told me what the correct answer was and why when I got it wrong, this allowed me to take notes and continue to go over it until I felt that I had a good understanding of what I was learning. I also enjoyed the assignments where we had to do research to determine if the information given was factual or not, this helped me understand how to tell when a website is fake vs. real. I also enjoyed doing the myths activities. The activities provided throughout this course helped me to

have a better understanding of the different kinds of writing we do in our lives and how each can vary from another, which in turn helped me grow my confidence as a writer.

Going along with the confidence I have found in my writing I have also learned some new and important things about me as a writer. For starters I do better when I get to pick my topics rather than having the topic provided for me. I have also learned that when I get writers block, I need to write down all the ideas in my head. I have found this to be one of the most useful tools to get past my writers block. I have also learned that I do better when I write down my main ideas for my essay then organize them instead of trying to put them in a certain order in the beginning. Lastly, I have learned that listening to calm music and having fun with my writing has made it a more enjoyable experience than I was expecting.

Now that I have shared some of the new things I've learned about myself as a writer, I'll also share some of the things that haven't changed in my writing. I will say the major thing that hasn't changed is that I still don't really have a passion for writing. Yes, I enjoyed being able to pick my topics and decide what to write about, however I still don't feel excited when writing an essay. I believe this might stem from the amount of overthinking and overwhelming feeling that comes with writing an essay. I have always felt overwhelmed about not meeting all the criteria or not getting a good grade on what I felt was my best work.

Lastly, I would like to discuss how I have fulfilled GEO #1 for this class (English 131).

I would like to start by saying I have written clearly in all my essays, especially my Memoir essay. There are details of imagery, emotional connection, proper punctuation, and in-depth details. I have also written clearly and concisely in my profile essay. There are many details and imagery used along with information on my sister Chantel. The information provided is concise without being too long unless it is necessary for the audience to understand the context of the

information. Lastly, I have written intelligibly in my research essay. There is a mixture of different words used from simple to complex. The research paper has a lot of useful and viable facts that are useful for the success of many people in the world from adolescence to adulthood. There are also detailed pictures attached in the essay to help give more information and help clarify things that may not be understood. Combining all my essays together further shows how I have fulfilled the goals of the specific GEO #1 for this class.