

Course Reflection

Collin Merkle

Keuka College

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Over the past decade of my life, English courses have been good base classes that have helped me prepare for the rest of my life. They teach necessary skills such as writing effectively and organization. I have been at Keuka College for two classes now and this is my first semester. The writing for transfer students' course has taught me a lot about myself as well as the importance of writing well.

The greatest challenge regarding my writing would be sentence flow and structure. I struggle with making sentences flow well and having the necessary organization in them. This challenge has followed me through the years and has made writing intimidating to me. Organization allows the writer to convey a message in a way that makes sense to the reader. Writing an essay can be compared to writing a story; when it does not flow well, the story won't have the same effect. This is because the story will seem rushed or it won't be in the proper order of events. Essays that have good organization are easier to read and seem more interesting to read.

When it comes to sentence structure, I have learned to go back through an essay and reread it multiple times to help find anything that does not flow properly. This allowed me to critique my own writings and to understand my own writing style. Understanding my writing style is important because I will know what my common mistakes are and teach myself to avoid those mistakes. Most of the time my common mistakes come down to joining two sentences together and a lot of missing commas. When I read back through an essay, I analyze it for what sentences should be combined or if I missed adding a comma to a "FANBOY". I know that my ability to write and express my ideas, thoughts, and knowledge, has grown stronger each semester. I struggled a lot with putting my thoughts down onto paper in a way that is coherent

and proper. There are a few strategies that help with that issue which include writing down my thoughts without hesitation and treat those thoughts as a rough draft and go over them later for correction. I can remember being told numerous times in to organize my thoughts better in my essays. These are the things that I have worked on and improved over the past couple of years and I feel that my work shows this.

There are still some struggles for me when it comes to writing. I still find myself writing fast because I want to finish up the work and relax, but this creates a lot of grammar mistakes and the work will not be as polished as I need it to be. I need to learn that it is important to take things slower and rushing my papers will only set me back in the long run. Taking time on my papers really helps me to articulate my words better and it gives me time to revise. I find a lot of times that when I am revising my work there are many places for more elegant word choice. I will make sure that I give myself more time on assignments down the road to focus on all of the minor mistakes that are found in my essays.

The English courses that I have been taking have taught me how powerful written word and language can be. We all have a story to share and it is necessary to express that with others. When reading stories that other people have written I obtain a whole new insight into someone else's life and ideas. From those ideas I can learn about new concepts and expand my mental capacity. Written word expresses ways of life and human condition; they tell about the rise and fall of cultures in the past as well as the cultures that have flourished. Literature teaches about the self and the world surrounding the self. From these classes I learned about other people's perspectives on struggles they have experienced, and I am wiser for it. I am thankful for the ability to understand myself and others taught to me by many English professors.