

George Yazbeck
Professor Girdharry
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Final Reflection

Studying English 3006 this quarter was right on par with my expectations. As one like myself would note, taking a sequence of related courses allows one to develop and think about new ideas while integrating what was learned previously, both technique-wise and knowledge-wise. With that being said, I was able to incorporate what I had learned in my previous English courses and coupled with what I have accomplished in this one, my final research paper, I believe, is a perfect culmination of my writing skills and learned processes. To illustrate the process of how my research paper was constructed, I first chose my topic (standardized testing) as my choice to write a controversial subject on for two reasons. Firstly, because I wanted to write about a topic I felt I had a lot to say about in tandem with my research (with most of my findings being easy to interpret and expand upon on based on relatable experience, etc.) and secondly, because standardized testing is a topic that I feel most people need to know about to raise awareness of our current problems in our country's education.

Following the selection of my topic, I then drafted an outline to base my final paper on and since this had to be 10 pages and dealt with a topic that was extensive with regards to arguments on the pros/cons sides, I knew I needed a lot of sources. Fortunately for me, I found a site called procon.com which gave me over a hundred footnote sources with brief excerpts of each and every point of both sides of the issue! This certainly made writing this paper manageable and hopefully, as written, I made my case give how much evidence and

professional input my sources were able to provide within my writing. Looking at what I was able to incorporate from previous papers, the most obvious is the annotated bibliography, which set the stage for gathering my sources in addition to properly citing them. Elements of my proposal also were incorporated in my paper as what it had talked about (history and background of the tests) made it perfect to integrate as introductory paragraphs before delving into the main content.

Thinking about what I had accomplished when finishing this massive paper, I can say that there are obvious similarities to other papers I wrote at CPS—researching, outlining and drafting being a common denominator; otherwise, aside from length, nothing too different. Reflecting back, now that I finished the paper, my biggest strengths I would say that it shows are my heavy uses of sources and vocabulary. Regarding revisions, if I was given more time, I wouldn't do anything significant other than adding more points for each side in the issue, effectively turning my paper into a masters or doctorate's thesis. Lastly, to wrap up my performance in this course, I would grade my course participation as a perfect 20/20. Factoring in this are as follows: I have never missed any scheduled meeting, I was always active on the discussion boards (and found them helpful in relating key points and having questions answered; same thing with being in class), I was always engaged with groups, whether in peer reviewing or getting to know them (and as a result, helping them based on what I learned from them) and most importantly, I used OWL to its full potential, taking in what was said was strong in my writing and taking out what wasn't needed or what needed to be improved.

Overall, my final English course has been a blast and without a doubt, I will take what I have learned and apply it to my future writings.