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Self-Assessment

Throughout the course of this semester, my knowledge as a writer and my writing skills have been put to the test. I was forced to push myself to a higher standard; many of the assignments required higher level thinking and analysis than I was used to. One thing that I enjoyed very much this semester was the regular bi-weekly homework assignments, analyzing and annotating texts and short clips to try and find deeper meaning. Doing this on such a steady basis really gave me a set regimen for analysis. I would first read the whole article down or watch the whole video one time without any annotations, just taking it all in and comprehending it. Then, I would go back and do all my analysis and annotation the second time, with a better understanding of what is going on rather than if I just started writing nonsense throughout my first read.

Not only did the homework assignments help in strengthening my annotation skills, but they also helped me learn how to construct an article/essay more comprehensively. After constantly reading and annotating professional level papers and articles, you start to pick up on subtle aspects of a writer’s strategy to composing a paper and start implementing it into your own writing. For example, one tip I started to use in my papers was making my sentences shorter. This was a strategy used by the New York Times. By making your sentences shorter, it helps keep your writer engaged by constantly introducing them to a new idea.

Overall, this semester I feel that my writing has improved with every essay, as I was more experienced and more knowledgeable each time around. My most recent essay was the hardest to produce, because of how much research I had to do rather than just let the ideas flow from my head. A strategy I used in this essay was to keep the number of high-level words in comparison to easier words in a similar range. By doing this, you adhere to the professional level crowd while also not making it too unreadable for the average reader, thereby broadening the range of people who might read and comprehend your article.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you to you professor; Because of this class and the hardships that came with it, I will be able to take the skills I learned here and apply them to the rest of my college journey. For every essay I will write in the future or any annotations I will have to make I will remember everything I learned throughout this semester.