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Intermediate Composition

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Major Assignment #1 Reflection

Prior to composing major assignment #1 I had a very minimal understanding of the concepts audience, genre and rhetorical situation. While researching for my paper I gained knowledge and insight that will later help me apply these concepts to my writing. In addition to the paper, the blog posts have helped me to expand on my existing knowledge and given me a sense of confidence when going into my future writing endeavors.

I have always been a decent writer, achieving good grades in most of my past English classes but I have also found writing a struggle. My ability to stay focused and seated in one place long enough to write a paper seems to be my largest obstacle. I tend to become bored and distracted when trying to write something longer than a single page. Though once I get started and “in the zone” as I call it, I begin to enjoy writing.

Just as my previous experiences with writing it took me a while to get into this paper. But once I did get into it I began to enjoy the learning process. When looking back and reflecting on what I learned the contrast of my understanding prior and after writing my paper is great.

Before writing the paper, I did not realize how important audience is to the construction of any kind of text. Audience is a critical component to consider when writing something. It can affect, the genre, tone and language used in the paper. Therefore, it can make a big difference on the potential effect on the reader.

Genre was also a very interesting topic to research and study. Prior to writing the paper and taking this course I had a very simplistic and minimal understanding of the concept. Genre was simply fiction, non-fiction, biographies, and so on. I now know that a genre is much more than the content of the writing. A text should be categorized by the intended action such as a love letter, a memo, or a research article.

More than the other two concepts I really didn't have any clue what a rhetorical situation was. After reading Bitzer and many other sources online I feel that I have a much better grasp on the idea. A rhetorical situation is a situation in which there is an exigence or a problem, an audience and constraints on the situation. Understanding rhetorical situation is important in being a decent and successful writer.

Being able to describe these concepts in my own words is a far step from where I started in this course. I believe that after writing this paper I will be a better writer and produce texts that are more effective. My own theory of writing is beginning to take form in my mind as something that has an important purpose every day in countless ways.