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Dr. Andrus

Intermediate Composition

Major Assignment #4

Class Reflection

My theory of writing has not necessarily changed but grown and matured over the past seven weeks of learning. Writing is an extension of ourselves, it is a way we can share our own thoughts and ideas with the world through written language. Writing allows the composer an opportunity to express oneself and communicate with an intended audience.

Coming into this class and English classes that I have taken previously, my understanding of writing was stunted. I wrote without a real purpose, without an audience in mind. I wrote thoughtlessly, only to fulfill an assignment and do what was necessary to pass a class. I believe now, with everything that I have learned, I will be able to write more successfully and with purpose. The knowledge I have gained in this course has molded my theory of writing and allowed me to better understand what writing really is.

I can now define some of the quintessential concepts of writing such as genre, audience and rhetorical situation in my own words. I now understand how important it is to consider audience when writing anything. I am able to target a specific audience with my word choice, information included and the genre that I choose. I am able to see the connection between the genre and audience as well. The genre must be chosen carefully with the audience in mind. It is important to choose an appropriate genre for the audience you are writing for.

Prior to this class my understanding of genre was also quite remedial. I didn't understand how genre applies to everything that is written. I simply considered fiction, non-fiction, biography etc. as my definition of genre. But genre can be anything, a novel, a letter, an essay, a speech and so on. Each genre has its own characteristics and is used as a response to a rhetorical situation. Rhetorical situation is something that I had zero understanding of, and it took me weeks to grasp the concept.

I now understand that a rhetorical situation is a situation in which there is some sort of issue or conflict, an audience and "constraints." A constraint in this instance is something that limits or restricts one's response to the situation. Not only did I learn about these ideas of writing, but I had to apply them to my own work. This practice helped me to turn this information into knowledge that I can apply to many different contexts.

I can easily see how what I have learned in this class will be applied to my future studies. With my capstone coming up next quarter I am expecting a decent amount of writing to be required. I now feel confident that I will be able to create work that is effective and impactful. I will also use my new knowledge in my daily life and career; utilizing what I have learned to write emails, to correspond with coworkers, and to create works that educate my patients. I look forward to using my new skills and to constantly grow and evolve my theory of writing.