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Writing for Engineering

Final Reflection

As I reflect on the past semester and the various writing assignments and projects I undertook, I feel a sense of growth and achievement. I have learned a great deal and have made significant progress as a communicator and writer. Today, I want to share my journey, discussing the course's learning objectives and how I have successfully met them.

Before enrolling in this class, I had very little experience with engineering writing and was unfamiliar with writing in a professional setting. Concepts like engineering proposals and technical descriptions were completely foreign to me. I lacked the knowledge and skills required to effectively communicate in the field of engineering. However, as I embarked on this learning journey, I embraced the opportunity to expand my horizons and develop proficiency in this specific type of writing. Through the guidance and instruction provided in the course, I gained a solid foundation in engineering writing, allowing me to grow from a place of inexperience to becoming more adept at articulating ideas and concepts within a professional context.

One of my proudest accomplishments is improving my reading, drafting, revising, editing, and self-assessment strategies. The lab report assignment was a crucial opportunity for me to improve these strategies. Initially, I struggled with wordiness and clarity in my writing. However, through feedback and reflection, I realized the importance of being concise and clear. I

diligently revised my drafts, removing unnecessary details and focusing on presenting information effectively. This process helped me understand the essential components of a professional lab report, including the abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. I also dedicated time to preparing by watching instructional videos, reviewing articles, and gathering relevant resources on titrations. This comprehensive approach improved the formality and language of my report, ensuring that it catered to my target audience, such as professors or superiors in a workplace. Overall, the lab report assignment taught me the value of concise writing, thorough preparation, and meeting genre requirements.

This helps me transition into a part of my writing where I excelled, which was aligning my writing goals with audience expectations. In a technical description writing piece, I had to cater to both professionals in the watch industry and consumers seeking informed choices. To achieve this, I immersed myself in understanding their conventions, preferences, and rhetorical needs. Consequently, I tailored my writing to meet their expectations, using formal and professional language to engage my target audience successfully. This experience enhanced my ability to negotiate writing goals and effectively meet the diverse demands of audiences.

The technical description assignment was a great opportunity for me to improve my writing skills. I wanted to create a description that would resonate with professionals in the watch industry or consumers who wanted detailed information. So, I made sure to use a formal tone and language, avoiding any casual or informal expressions. I structured the description carefully, including sections like the table of contents, definition, overview, components, explanation, conclusion, and references. My goal was to be clear and concise, providing the

necessary information without overwhelming the reader. Looking back, I realized that I could have included more diverse and relevant visuals and figures to enhance the overall impact. It's a lesson learned for the future. One thing I took away from this assignment is the importance of speaking up and sharing my ideas earlier in the process to ensure my vision is fully realized

Collaboration played a significant role in my growth as well. Through our group project and subsequent presentation, I had the opportunity to engage in collaborative and social aspects of the writing process. We encountered challenges but overcame them by maintaining open communication, assigning tasks effectively, and being accountable. This collaborative environment allowed me to refine my communication, time management, and teamwork skills, fostering personal growth and helping us achieve our collective objectives.

In addition to these accomplishments, I also made progress in other areas outlined by the course. Research and proper source use practices were essential skills I developed. I delved into library resources, online databases, and the vast expanse of the internet to find suitable sources for my writing projects. For instance, in the lab report, I immersed myself in scientific articles, videos, and various resources to gain a comprehensive understanding of the experiment. Seamlessly integrating these sources and citing them correctly showcased my growth in source use practices and research skills.

Throughout this journey, I have come to appreciate the value of recognizing my own linguistic differences and using them as valuable resources. This awareness has allowed me to develop a rich rhetorical sensibility, embracing diverse linguistic tools to enhance my

communication and writing. Recognizing linguistic differences as valuable resources has become an integral part of my writing practice, enabling me to become a more effective communicator.

By addressing key learning objectives, I have highlighted my growth in reading, drafting, revising, editing, and self-assessment strategies, as well as my ability to align writing goals with audience expectations. Additionally, I have emphasized the importance of collaboration, the development of research and source use skills, and the recognition of linguistic differences as valuable resources. Each accomplishment has not only advanced my skills but has also deepened my understanding of effective writing across various contexts. I am grateful for the progress I have made and eagerly anticipate continuing this journey of growth and development in the future.

There is still plenty of room for growth, however, as there are many areas of my writing in which I wish to improve. For instance, as can be seen in some places even in this reflection, I sometimes struggle with the concept of “show not tell”. It is still difficult for me to be able to relay some pieces of information in a manner other than outright stating it. This makes my writing at times feel blunt, or less well thought out. Another aspect I wish to improve on is my time management, although I know I should refrain from the meta comments, I am writing this with 30 minutes left on the clock until May 23rd. Again, I have really appreciated the experience afforded to me by this class and I am looking forwards to using the skills I have gained in my engineering career.

