Self Evaluation Letter

May 13, 2015

Professor Pickrel:

Over the course of this whole year there has been many rough patches as I have been trying to improve my level of writing throughout English 10 and 11. At the beginning of my first semester when I was enrolled in English 10 I did not know what to expect. I was nervous and anxious on how I was going to do in this class. Instructor Mazur, our English 10 teacher last semester, build confidence within myself, which allowed me to make strides to where I want to be as a writer. I am not quite where I want to be and need to be as a writer yet but throughout this year I have seen drastic improvements.

Some trends that I have seen over the course of this year in my writing are my introduction paragraphs and thesis statements have been very poor. Since high school I have struggled with those two particular aspects of writing. I believe the free-writes we do every day before class starts has helped me expand my mind and vocabulary most importantly. I feel that instructor Mazur and Pickrel gave me a better understanding on how college level writing is supposed to be. Although, I am still getting better I have seen dramatic improvement from where I was in September.

Another huge method that helped me excel throughout this year were annotating and revising papers. Learning from other authors and my peers were very valuable lessons and helped me become a better writer. They showed me different ways I can express myself in regards to my vocabulary, word choice and sentence structure. Citing was another issue I had. I was not sure how to cite quotes from sources. Taking the time to research MLA citation page has paid dividends throughout this year.

The most significant differences between the rough drafts of my papers compared to my final drafts are all my thesis statements were stronger and answered thoroughly throughout my paper. I expected to learn how college level papers should be processed and delivered. I actually learned how to cite sources. I still need to work on having a stronger conclusion at the end of my papers. My approach to starting to write a paper changed completely. When I first started writing papers I would just write it then turn it in, now I brainstorm jot notes down revise them then start my drafts and I have noticed a huge difference. My strength's of my writing now I would say is sentence structure and my weakness of writing papers are my introduction paragraphs and my thesis statements. At the begging of the year my strength was vocabulary usage and my weaknesses were lack of strong thesis statement and sentence structure. Two examples I have that I inserted in my portfolio were papers from English 10, the "shitty" first draft of writing assignment 1 and the final paper from English 10. By looking back at these papers it was amazing to see how much I improved over the months.

Throughout this year there were six specific goals that we had to reach. I feel good about where I stand upon the following goals. Goal 1, "to help students understand the ways that readers read and writers write in and beyond the university." I meet this goal through this year by writing various essays and cover letters. More recently the latest research paper is a requirement meet that also is
accepted. **Goal 2**, “To help students understand processes of reading, writing, and research proofreading”. I meet this goal with my research proposal and self-editing through the course of the year. **Goal 3**, “to help students develop a metacognitive understanding of processes of reading, writing and thinking”. I meet this goal by revising my papers attending workshops in class and completing my journal/free writes at the begging of class. **Goal 4**, “to help students understand textual conventions paragraphing to tone and mechanics”. I meet this goal by writing that business letter at the begging of this semester. As well as Bibliography’s I completed during the course of the year, as well as completing my literature review and proposal. **Goal 5**, “to help students understand and engage in reading and writing as communal processes”. I meet this goal by doing online class discussions and workshops during class. **Goal 6**, “to help students think critically about academic discourse communities as contact zones where different cultures both connect and come into conflict”. I meet this goal completing the research project and by completing the portfolios cover letter.

In conclusion, this year has been extremely challenging at times but it has ultimately paid off. I can honestly say that I came out as a better writer and it is night and day the amount of improvements I have made. By just looking back at my early assignments in English 10 it makes me cringe and is due to the fact that I see the improvements I made. If there had to be a number lesson I got out of writing it would have to be there is no such thing as a perfect paper there is always room to improve.

Sincerely,