May 15th 2015

Carolyn Pickrel

Dear Carolyn Pickrel,

As the semester comes close to ending, I have evaluated myself and found my own unique writing style. Not only that, but I have also met the six learning outcomes. Throughout each and every one of my writings, the trends that I saw in my own writings fascinated me. Every time if I were to write about something, I would explain many types of fact and information about my topic. Not only that but I was very vague and general with my answers. For example like my paper from English 10 titled “Eng Goals” I wrote, “By doing assignment two, it allowed me to complete goals three and four, allowing me to become better.” As you can see, it was very vague because I never explained about how it helped me. My papers were decent because I never really mentioned the source or who it was from. It was like I mainly just wrote down the ideas and informations first.

I looked over and saw the rough draft to the final drafts to see a big difference in my writing skills. I tend to just put down a lot of information and ideas first. Then afterwards, when I review and reread the paper again, will I start to revise and change it; Like my first community discourse draft, I wrote down a bunch of necessary information, but I didn’t have an organized and effective introduction paragraph that would let the audience know what the topic is about. “Discourse communities are different types of cultural groups who have values and beliefs/tradition. Today my partner and I will be talking and discussing about the Hmong community and the dancing community. My partner and I will be discussing about the contact zones….” It does sound alright, but can be made better. After revising it with my partner, we changed it into this on our final draft, “Discourse communities are groups of people who have different sets of values, beliefs, languages, etc. The similarities they have transitions them into a group where they share similar things in common and come together to discuss them. Today my partner and I will be discussing about the Hmong Community and dance community. We will be discussing about the contact zones of it and how they relate.” As you can see, the final version of the paper sounds more professional than the first draft. I feel like this met the learning outcomes goals 2, 3, and 6 because I focused on talking about the different discourse communities. You can also see that I have met the goals by revising my sentences in the quotes by making it more effective in the final draft than it was in the first draft.

Other such things can be like the sources. I feel that one of the most significant differences from my rough drafts and my final drafts are the information and its citations. Another significant thing to this is that I have met goal 4 from this citation. I’d say this because when I first came to college, I didn’t know how to properly cite sources. From my 1st draft literature paper, I incorrectly cited sources and sometimes didn’t even cite anything. For example, “Plastic takes up
to 450-years to degrade...” But after seeing this problem, I revised it and added the citation, “(Claire Lytle paragraph 44)” to show that it is a factual information. This is one of the many sentences that I have cited correctly and this is how I met goal 4.

When I first came into the class, I didn’t really expect much of anything because I felt that I knew how to write enough already. But I was wrong because after I wrote my first essay, I was pretty surprised to find out that I didn’t do well for the first time. From that point on, I expected to learn more about the various ways I can write and restructure the format of the essay to make it become more effective. In addition to those things, I wanted to focus more on my citations skills and how to incorporate it into an essay. I feel that I still need to practice more with my citation skills and how to incorporate them into my writings. I’d say this because I feel that this will allow me to make my papers more effective and stronger in the future. Not only that, but I haven’t really grasped it well enough, therefore I want to practice more on it.

I feel that my literature paper and advertisement paper are the best papers because I have done a lot of citations and revised them a few time. I felt that my incorporation of my citations to these two papers made them the best essay that I have by far. In addition to that, I have met the learning goals 1 and 5 from these writings because I demonstrated more professional revision and writing. From my advertisement essay, I strengthened by explanations of how the tobacco companies attracts their customers by quoting a few quotes from their websites. “More options to match your lifestyle. Not ready to commit? Try our disposables. Ready to settle down? Choose from one of our rechargeable options.” This might seem a lot, but this quote allows the customer to choose to try it out even if he never used it before by using the disposable ones. If the customer did like them, then he would have even more options to try out. That was what I did to strengthen a part of this essay. Furthermore, this is how I met goal one. I explained what I had found from my research and demonstrated knowledge that the advertisement is attracting the customers in many varieties of ways. As for the literature essay, I made few changes to it so that it is more understandable and effective. An example from the essay would be like the quotes and paraphrasing. “About 12,000 to 24,000 bits of pieces of plastic trash are consumed by fishes every year and are transferred into bigger marine animal only to cause more harm.” As you can see, there are no citations to this and it is confusing. Therefore, I revised it and changed it like this to let the readers know what it’s about and where the information came from. “[About] 12,000 to 24,000 [bits of pieces] of plastic trash are consumed by fishes every year and are transferred into bigger marine animal [only to cause more harm].” This clarified that is was information from a source and that I was using its research to explain about my topic. In addition to clarifying it, it has met my 5th goal because it engaged in the discourse community and talked about how the plastic is bad for the environment and the marine life. These are the reasons why I feel that these two are my best papers.

These are the many ways that I have revised my essays from a rough draft into a final draft. This is what I have learned throughout the semester. These are great papers, and I feel that I will only improve more in the future. Although I am not the best at writing yet, I still am going to keep practicing and revising until I can get great papers like these or even better.
Sincerely,
Literature Review

Earth is our home and it provides us the necessities that we need in order to survive. We all know this and try to conserve earth's environments and species, but yet our precious home is being destroyed by trash that we have created. This trash can vary from paper, cardboard, and Styrofoam. But one of the most dangerous trash of all is plastic. Research and literature on the subject indicates plastic trash is one of the biggest issues that we have come to face because it causes serious health issues and even hurts the environments it surrounds.

According to Claire Lytle and her article: "Plastic Pollution" she introduces to us on how much plastic we consume and use. She gives us researched information that tells us about the plastic trash and how much there is. "In 2008, our global plastic consumption worldwide has been estimated at 260 million tons, and, according to a 2012 report by Global Industry Analysts, plastic consumption is to reach 297.5 million tons by 2015." (Claire Lytle paragraph 3) This already introduces and gives us an argument on how much plastic we have already used. Surely plastic is a good and cheap product to make, but it has been overly consumed and is now doing more harm than it could be useful. It takes decades for it to degrade and in that process, it can become more poisonous. Plastic takes up to about 450-1000 years to degrade, but before it can completely degrade, it would have already become a hazardous trash that can damage and hurt things such as the marine life in the ocean (Claire Lytle paragraph 44).

Plastic is so durable that it even now still exists from when it was first produced up to 100 years ago. Due to this and other trashes, it has piled up together into a massive pile of trash into
the ocean causing damage towards the marine life and us. The article “ocean plastic pollution: A Global Tragedy for Our Oceans and Sea Life” explains many things about the harm that plastic has done. It analyzes that a huge plastic garbage patch known as the Gyre is just as big as Texas as it is flowing in the North Pacific Ocean. To make it worse, it is only growing bigger to the point where it is about to be twice the size of Texas. According to the article “Ocean Plastic Solution” as the gyre grows, it devastates the marine life even more as birds, fish, turtles, and even marine mammals die from it. “[About] 12,000 to 24,000 [bits of pieces] of plastic trash are consumed by fishes every year and are transferred into bigger marine animal [only to cause more harm].” As more plastic is being transferred, it is causing a bigger chain reaction that can kill off bigger sea animals. Not are only fishes suffering from this tragedy, sea turtles and birds are too. Sea turtles mistaken the plastic trash as food, and usually eats it causing it to choke. Sea birds are also very much affected by this problem because 97.5% of all of the sea bird chicks have small plastic pieces inside of their body because their parents have fed them plastic that seemed liked regular food. This is bad because the plastic can cause them to suffocate as they grow. How can these animals survive if there is so much plastic trash around them that is hurting them (“Ocean Plastic Solution”)?

Vannele Raveender’s article “Are We "Digging Our Own Grave" Under the Oceans?” along with “Solutions to Plastic Pollution in Our Oceans” published by the National Resource Defense Center explain how the ocean is being filled up by plastic trash. As the Gyre grows bigger, it becomes a greater threat towards the marine wild life, therefore the zero plastic ocean policy was created in order to spread more awareness of these events. The zero plastic ocean policy was created to help prevent more plastic from going into the ocean and many other places to prevent contamination and threaten the marine wildlife. The other article, “Solutions to Plastic
Pollution in Our Oceans” explains and relates to what Vannele has explained throughout her article. In this article, it focuses on trying to find solutions to fix this problem that is endangering the marine wildlife and of course ourselves. The article talks and gives possible solutions to help prevent more plastic trash from going into the ocean. For example, “Cut disposable plastics out of your routine. Simple alternatives include bringing your own bag to the store…..” (NDRC) Such simple steps can be like to recycle and stop littering. This is because littering is one of the main reasons to why the trash goes into the Ocean so much. Another thing that NRDC is trying to do, is to try to find better solutions at international levels with other different organizations. Now that is teamwork. But mainly by being responsible with your plastic, you can prevent it from ever going into the ocean to endanger the marine life and us. Not only that, but by supporting NRDC and by helping clean up beaches and litter will help further prevent future issues. These are the solutions that were brought out to try to solve the issues with plastic trash. People are actually trying to make a difference and fix this solution. This is a great thing.

Plastic is an important fundamental thing in our life as we use it for almost everything. But it has started to cause problems for us that can be very costly and time consuming before it can completely be fixed. Not only that, but it is becoming worse. From the research in the article, “Ocean Plastics Pollution” it can be seen that the marine lives are becoming devastated as time passes by due to the plastic’s negative effects and choking hazards. With these research from the sources that I have obtained, it tells us about how these problems are occurring throughout the ocean and across the world. Organizations and the EPA are trying to fix this, but without much support, it will be hard. However, as long as we are trying to fix it and work together, the different organizations along with the people who are trying to solve this problem can find ways
better solutions and prevention methods to protect the endangered marine life. But most of all, it’s not just protecting the marine life, but it is also to protect us.
Works Cited


America Influences? Or is it Influenced?

Ever had an advertisement pop into your website browsers uninvited? Or maybe pop up at the corner of your screen telling you to buy their products? I’m pretty sure that everyone has experienced these things before on the internet.Advertisements today are becoming more and more annoying or as you can say widespread throughout the world. People believe that advertising influences the American culture. However, I believe that the American culture is the one that is influencing the advertisements and it is a bad thing because it is causing all sorts of problems for us even today.

The modern world has become a place of business and survival, therefore advertising has become a part of the American culture. Many people and businesses have created advertisements to get people to buy their products; whether good or bad has worked effectively bringing advertisement further deeper into our culture. It is basically set in stone in the American culture and is a necessity for the American culture to thrive. Advertisements work along with fast food restaurants to maintain and preserve itself in the American culture. Fast food restaurants sell cheap and good food for the customers to eat. Meanwhile the advertisements attracts the customers. Fast foods are meant for both customers who had limited time to eat due to their work schedules or either just wanted something cheap to eat. In addition, people go to it because it served food really fast. Restaurants such as McDonalds, Carl’s Jr, or maybe even Burger King, have become powerful and influential throughout the world. By advertising often, it has become
a necessity of the American culture. Without a doubt, you will always see advertisements everywhere because it has become a necessity in life like the fast food. It can be from the internet, newspapers, TV Show’s, and many more. Advertisements have become influential in our daily lives.

The American culture is influential because the people in America created the advertisements to be influential and make a profit by marketing their products. An example would be the E-cigarettes advertisements. The companies would advertise it by telling you how much variety and exclusives that they have for you to try out. The companies are trying to make it a valued product that will bring more enjoyment into your life. A quote from the website’s advertisement page called **blu Leads the Pack** says: “More options to match your lifestyle. Not ready to commit? Try our disposables. Ready to settle down? Choose from one of our rechargeable options.” This quote from the advertisement shows varieties and many options that could possibly match your taste and style. This makes the advertisement more suitable to your likings, therefore attracting consumers to buy it. Another quote from the advertisement website, which proves that they have a variety to suit your tastes: “Want tried-and-true tobacco or menthol? Got’em. Want to try something different? We’ve got those, too. The ability to charge anytime, anywhere. Use the wall charger, USB charger, or your blue Cigs pack to charge your batteries.” This makes the advertisement even more appealing towards the customer because they also have the original flavored tobacco ones and the rechargeable ones. This exclaims that our culture is full of different things and varieties you can choose from. That way, you can find what is more towards your style within the American culture. This is how the American culture is influencing its own citizens through advertising.
What is the American culture? The American culture would be what its citizens do and believe in. Say for example if they love eating McDonalds every day, it would then be incorporated into their daily lifestyles because they are doing it every day. Now that they are eating McDonalds daily it has become a routine for them. This routine then becomes an individual’s own culture. As people obtain their own routines and lifestyles, it becomes their very own culture just like the guy who would buy McDonalds every day. Despite this, many other people believe that the American culture isn’t influencing the advertisements. Others claim this because they believe that the advertisements are influencing the American culture. But in reality, it is the advertisements are being influenced by the American culture. How can the advertisements influence the American culture when it is created by the American culture itself?

Advertising cigarettes would portray a bad image to America because it is causing an endless cycle that can be hazardous to our own future. It presents a negative image for America because it caused a lot of health issues in America. This is important because we don’t want to be hurting ourselves, our own friends, and family. By using this product and advertising it, it is causing more people to hurt themselves rather protect themselves from harm. It is also in the cigarettes family that had caused many devastating things to friends and families. Such examples are like lung cancer, heart diseases, the loss of their home, and many more. The ads from the e-cigarettes are mainly targeting adults, but also adolescents because the e-cigarettes are viewed as toys instead of being actual tobacco. Vapor comes out instead of smoke, making it suitable for adolescents to use. Therefore advertisements are also targeting the adolescents.

Advertisements are influenced from the American culture. It is the American culture that is influencing its people and citizens of America. Some products aren’t the best and are detrimental to your health, but are still being sold today due to the fact that people have been influenced to
think that is the best option for them. Advertisements are strong and influential. The possibilities of it are endless. Who knows, maybe it might catch your eyes someday too.
Dear Carolyn Pickrel,

After reading the peer reviews and rereading my papers, I have made changes that I thought would make my essay better. I realized that my information was unorganized and confusing. I went back and fixed the paragraphs so that it would be more organized and understandable. I also added more examples and explanations towards my focus because my peer reviewers said that I needed more information. I took out quite a lot of the unnecessary information and tried to focus more on the advertisements and explaining on what and how the American culture influences the advertisement.

I feel that maybe I could use some tips on how to write better and more efficient sentences because most of my sentences are really repetitive. Because my sentences are repetitive, they don't expand as much as I want it too. I am also having issues expanding my ideas and explanations. But I hope that I will be able to learn more on writing efficient sentences in the future.

Sincerely,

Charlie Thao