

I was really confident about my writing abilities prior to starting this course. I had taken both AP Capstone courses and AP English Language and had plenty of opportunities throughout high school to develop my academic writing style. My high school also had a strong focus on collaboration and group work, so I was also confident about my communication skills. Since then, none of that has really changed and I still feel just as confident about my writing and don't expect it to change much in the short term.

One issue that I dealt with before the course started and must deal with to this day is procrastination. A lot of the work throughout the semester felt like a chore, and as such, I tended to leave pretty much every assignment to the last few hours. Even this self-assessment is being written with just two hours left on the clock. I thought that I could use the course to work on this flaw, but I still fail to find the motivation to work on assignments that I don't find particularly stimulating. I'm honestly not sure how I can work on this, but I make sure to not let it affect the quality of my work and still strive to put out the best result possible.

Though I don't think my writing style changed much, I definitely did have some takeaways from this course. Chief among these is a more diverse toolset that I have during my writing process. I've found new ways to collaborate and new revision techniques, and overall feel more prepared to work on writing tasks. The course learning outcomes that I think have been most prevalent in my experience throughout the semester are:

1. *Develop and engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes.*

The numerous Blackboard collaborative discussions and the engineering proposal have both been very instructive experiences in engagement and collaboration. They have prompted me to get creative in asking questions and internalize the different perspectives that our peers can offer to us. For example, the podcast reflection from week 6 incentivized me to read the responses people had to different podcasts from the one I picked, and then compare their takeaways with my own. The engineering proposal provided a unique opportunity to work with others throughout the entire timeline of a project. The general idea is not new to me as I've been a part of many teams through work and passion projects, but the goal of identifying an issue that many of us may not be familiar with was certainly unique.

2. *Negotiate your own writing goals and audience expectations regarding conventions of genre, medium, and rhetorical situation*

For all three major projects, I tried my best to adapt my writing style to more closely align with provided samples or with papers I found online. In large part, this was an attempt to understand what audiences of similar papers expect to see, and the rhetorical style that I should be aiming for. I understood, of course, that even within disciplines audiences can differ vastly and I did consider this while writing my papers. I think the project that best shows me adapting to match audience expectations is the technical description. I had to be very meticulous with how I described the various parts of my selected object, which was a camera, and ensure that even somebody who had never touched a camera could at least begin to understand how it works.

3. *Enhance strategies for reading, drafting, revising, editing, and self-assessment.*

My editing process is something that has changed throughout this course. We of course begin with the lab report, which I tackled with an old mindset of perfecting it the first time around and spending little to no time reviewing and revising it after the fact. As a result, my rough and final drafts were pretty much the same except for some comments that I addressed. For the technical description, I didn't even manage to finish my rough draft due to a lack of time. As such, my revisions entailed a lot of additional research and composition on top of the basic grammatical corrections that I would usually make, and my rough and final drafts were worlds apart in terms of both quantity and quality. And finally, for the engineering proposal, the collaborative format of the project once again made me shift my editing workflow. I was not very actively involved in the initial brainstorming but took the lead on refining the first version of our draft. My best work was definitely the introduction, and the research paper style of writing reminded me of the reports I had to write for AP Capstone. I also had the opportunity to collaborate on revising the proposal with Benny, which was a very new experience for me.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for teaching this course and providing us with a safe space where we could experiment with our writing styles while still keeping the class rigorous. While the class is a required pre-requisite for my major, I'm certain that I wouldn't have regretted taking it as an elective if the choice was mine.