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Rhetorical Rationale

***Rhetorical Rationale:***

Discuss the following questions as you reflect on your writing process during the past several weeks:

1. *Who is the target audience in each of the 3 revised pieces?*

Each of the three essays (Rhetorical Reflection, Rhetorical Analysis and Visual Analysis) were written with Kimberly Strickland, my English professor, and the students of her class as the intended audience.

2. *What do you hope to accomplish (what is your purpose) in each of the 3 revised pieces? Describe the revisions you made from first to final drafts and why you made those revisions. Discuss anything else you would like readers of your portfolio to know about your writing or about yourself as a writer.*

The purpose of the first essay, the rhetorical reflection essay, was to share with the audience experiences I had as a child that involved reading. I chose to share the experiences I had with my mother in many different instances which all worked together to create the love for reading I have today. It was difficult for my adult mind to separate the magic I felt as I remembered those treasured memories, and I wanted to convey that magic along with the memories to the reader.

This essay required many revisions to arrive at the final draft you see today. I had arrogantly thought that I did not need to submit the first draft to the writing lab due to the positive feedback I had received from my 'editors'. I was so very wrong. I learned that members of my family are, like me, so close to the subject (and the author) to provide constructive criticism. It was difficult for me to accept the feedback I received from my

professor as well as the writing lab. However, once I separated myself from my writing I could see how much improvement applying their suggestions made to the quality of my essay. Several revisions to the sentence structures were made as I had many run-on sentences which needed to be corrected. Additional revisions to the introduction, conclusion, and sections of the body of the essay were also made at the suggestion of the writing lab.

The purpose of the second essay, the visual analysis essay, was to analyze a print advertisement to show how it reflected a rhetorical situation. I chose an advertisement from the 1940's titled "You Can Do It". This advertisement drew a strong emotional response from me, and I wanted to show how the visual elements of the piece worked together to bring about this response.

The writing process for this essay was difficult and new for me. It required me to spend several hours in brainstorming sessions and I discovered that the writing processes we were discussing in class were really quite effective. This essay was submitted to the writing lab for feedback prior to turning it in to my professor, and I was grateful I had taken this extra step. I received feedback that guided me through the process I needed to develop my main points more completely. The version I turned in for credit was the second draft, instead of the first draft as was submitted for my first essay. This resulted in a majority of my mistakes being caught before submission. The resulting final draft is a more polished version of that version originally turned in.

The purpose of third essay, the rhetorical analysis essay, was to analyze a written text to see how the author had used rhetorical strategies to persuade the reader of their particular topic. I chose to review an essay by Donald Hall titled *Four Ways of Reading* because it was focused on a topic (reading) that I am passionate about. This was the most challenging of these three essays to write because it forced me to separate my emotional response to the essay and focus, instead, on the text and method the author used to create his piece.

The writing process for this final essay was one I had never been through before. While similar to the visual analysis essay in process, the approach it forced me to take to the written text was unique and therefore very challenging. As with the second essay, I submitted this third essay to the writing lab before submitting it to my professor. Once more I received feedback and guidance that was applied to the essay. Once again the version I turned in for credit was the second draft. Minor edits were made to the essay in response to the peer reviews received. I am an emotional writer, and this essay was exceedingly difficult for me to write, but I am pleased with the final result.

3. *Describe your engagement in peer review.*

Throughout the course of this class I have reviewed a total of six different essays, two on each of the essay topics as a part of the peer review process. Our professor provided us with a series of questions and items to think about as we reviewed the essays, and I was able to gain a great appreciation for the work it takes for an instructor to grade all of the essays he or she receives. I found that in order to give a fair and thorough review of each essay, it required about an hour and a half of effort on my part per essay. Subsequently, I have spent many hours immersed in the writing and revision process and have found it to be beneficial to myself as I write. I am more aware of the elements I need to include in my writing and organization of the same.