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English 1010-047
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Rhetorical Rationale, IEP

Rhetorical Rationale:

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

1. *Who is the target audience of the Issue Exploration Paper?*

This essay was written with Kimberly Strickland, my English professor, as the target audience. This essay was not submitted to a peer review so the members of my class were not included in the target audience for the same.

2. *What do you hope to accomplish (what is your purpose) in writing this piece? Describe the revisions you made from first to final draft 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 this issue exploration paper was to choose a controversial topic and, after a thorough investigation into both sides of the chosen topic, write an essay on the topic. This essay needed to describe what was discovered, the development of my opinion of the topic, and the final conclusion drawn regarding the topic. The final paper was also required to be presented as a story with flashback elements, visual and sensory imagery and a conclusion which posed a question for the reader. An annotated works cited page was to be created and all researched information within the paper needed to be cited to the same. All of these elements needed to work together to create the final issue exploration paper.

This research project was challenging. It required that I apply the knowledge and work regarding rhetoric that we have engaged in for this class to the supporting

documents I decided to use for the paper. I discovered that some of the original pieces I had chosen were inflammatory, were not supported by fact, and drew heavily on pathos (emotion) rather than balancing that pathos with logos (reason). I spent many hours in researching this subject and was surprised to discover that the original conclusion I had drawn regarding the school lunch reformation was incorrect.

The research and writing process engaged in for this paper taught me many things. I learned how to use parenthetical citation within the piece. I learned the correct way to create a works cited page as well as the additional challenge of making that same works cited page annotated. I learned several different research approaches and search skills. In addition, I was able to use my imagination to present the research in an interesting and emotionally appealing manner. Through the multiple revisions, both before and after I submitted the piece to the writing lab, I was able to polish and refine the approach and delivery of this essay. I am grateful for the challenging nature of this paper, and appreciate the writing skills which were developed as a result of this challenge.

3. *Describe your engagement in peer review.*

Unlike my previous experiences in this class, this essay did not involve a peer review. Instead I relied heavily on the feedback I received from the writing lab, as well as the feedback received from those I asked to review the piece critically for me, to improve and revise my paper.