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Final Reflection

We were asked to answer these questions: What did I do? What did I learn? What do I still have to learn? These, could seem simple to answer but the answer goes beyond what we can clearly see. In my –personal case, English is my second language (Spanish is my mother tongue). Trying to communicate in other language is very difficult and is worse when you have not been in this country for a very long time.

My main concern when I first started this English class was my grammar. I feel throughout this semester I have learned so many things and I have improved my knowledge in English. It is hard when you first come to this country and you are not confident enough to open your mouth and say something because you feel your English is not good. People can think you don’t know what are they talking about or you can’t understand them, but the reality is that you can clearly understand the, and maybe you know more than them about the topic but your vocabulary and knowledge about English is not good (your you think it is not).

I remember when I first started in this class; I could hardly say one word in English because I felt intimidated by my classmates (All of them English speakers). Then, saw all the activities and exercises that we needed to do and I thought I was not going to be able to do them or that I was not smart enough to finish them. Now, after 15 weeks I can say that my writing skills in English have improved. Even though I still have problems with my spelling and vocabulary I can see that At least I can communicate with coherence to other people.

In Spanish, I really enjoy to write and read. Since I was a little girl, my parents made me write stories in a little book and then read them to my family. I enjoyed this experiences and It really helped me to expand my knowledge in writing and reading. Throughout high school, I loved to write papers addressing different issues, and I was the best writer in my high school. But, once I came to the U.S. I had to start all over, learn new methods and a new language. I felt disappointed at the beginning but, everything was worth it. All the sacrifices, All the hours spent in front of a computer reading and reviewing a paper to get a better grade every time. I feel so thankful that I could take this English 2010 class with Jerri A. Harwell. At the beginning I saw her as a professional and maybe a little bit hard person. But, every little thing she made us do was worth it, from the readings to the position/proposal paper; everything was a tool for me to improve my writing and I really appreciate that.

One thing that was really helpful to me was the revision process. I knew that to write good papers it was always necessary to revise it (which is the same in Spanish). But I didn’t value that as much as I did in this semester. Peer reviews and conferences were really helpful to me because we were writing in different genres and sometimes I got confused between one and the other but my classmates really helped to have a clear idea about what I was doing. Also, in the conferences we met with the instructor to revise the paper which I think is great because she is the one who is going to grade it, then who else is supposed to a look of the paper and say if I’m in the right path or not? It’s her. So I found this really helpful.

It is sad to realize that the semester is almost gone. I enjoyed this class, even though was an English class, but I felt I learned many new things from it. I don’t have any regrets about taking this class. I will recommend EVERYONE that asks me, to take this class with this excellent instructor.