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English 2010-081

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Final Portfolio – Reflection

During English 2010 we were required to complete 4 key writing assignments using different rhetorical approaches on a particular subject. I chose to explore the topic of recycling. There are a wide range of issues that can be discussed within that topic and was difficult to pinpoint exactly what approach I wanted to use. Preceding the first key writing assignment was Research Activity #1. This activity that helped to explore our topic using specific questions to narrow down what we wanted to write about. Its purpose was to find out why we are interested in the subject, what problems are there and how can we make a difference by writing about them, what has already been written about the subject, and what research we would need to find out about our subject. Using this guide I determined that recycling is something that everyone needs to work one, some more than others, and that my audience would be my peers.

The next assignment was the most important as it gave direction to what we were to cover in our first 3 key writing assignments. This was done by completing a mission statement that gave a purpose to the writing. What I came up with was, “My mission is to educate on the topic of recycling and to persuade my audience of peers to begin a simple personal recycling program that will help them reduce their ecological footprint.” Now that I had figured out my mission I would need to associate part of all of the statement into the first 3 key writing assignments.

My first key writing assignment was a memoir. I wrote about when I realized I needed to change the way I lived and how I went a little overboard at first but then finally came to terms with an easier solution. I created this assignment to seem like it would be an article in some form of literary magazine.

It focused on the education and persuasion side of my mission statement. I was hoping that readers would take my experience and then compare it to their own.

The second key writing assignment was a report on the Salt Lake County recycling program. My rhetorical approach came from the idea that I was a marketing intern with Salt Lake County and I was to put together a Pamphlet that would be sent out to homeowners that didn't already use their recycling program. This pamphlet catered to the section of my mission statement where I would persuade and show how easy it is and cost effective to start a recycling program.

The third key writing assignment was a proposal. I wanted to make an article that was similar to one you would read on the Huffington Post's news site. It has five "quick tips" to help save the environment. These tips were not overly difficult and were geared towards busy students that did not have time to become 100% ecofriendly. This was a guilt trip guide to pressure them into doing "the least they could do".

The last key assignment was separate from the original portfolio (first 3 key assignments). We write and created this project, a public service announcement, in groups. We chose to write about forest friendly tips to help reduce campsite waste. Our research on the subject was used to create an animated video and two flyers that shared ways that we can help be "forest friendly" while camping. The animated video would be shown either online or on local TV stations and the flyer would be posted around campsites.

I have selected a few of these writing assignment to include in my online portfolio. These key assignments, along with the various research and group activities, were critical in showing us how to form our ideas and research into real-life rhetorical situations.