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English 250

Section FK

Ms. McCourt

OVE Pieces Reflection

English 250 is not just focus on writing. Oral, visual and electronic modes are also important.

The best work I did in oral, visual, and electronic modes, I think, is the fourth assignment: visual analysis. Just based on the grade, I got B+. It was better than any other assignment grades. What’s more, the comment from Ms. McCourt was that,

“Your writing shows depth and insight about this ad. I see that you have put a lot of time in your writing. Your description of the ad is clear, and the strategies that you point out are explained to show that the creators of the ad are appealing to a particular audience. This is the most important aspect of writing visual or textual analyses.” I think I did well on this piece. What’s more, as far as I’m concerned, I like the ad which I chose. I found my ad on a printed magazine named Popular Science. To recommend the newly designed car called the LEAF and sell the energy-saving concept, Nissan Motors uses color choice, relative pictures and text on the ad. The target audience should be car and science enthusiasts and environment conservation advocates. When I wrote this piece, I felt interesting and was willing to research more about this ad.

After the first draft coming into being, I brought it to the English writing help center. They helped me a lot in grammar. Sometimes I could not use article correctly. For instance, I forgot to add “the” before the specific object, like the Earth. Besides the English help room, I think peer review is really helpful. Since I am an international student, most of time, I cannot use a word very accurate. For example, in my essay, I wrote “by using contrasting colors, people will be attracted by the ad subconsciously.” Actually my partner changed the word” subconsciously” from “unconsciously”. He described the difference between these two words and he thought “subconsciously” was more accurate. During conference time, I showed my draft to Ms. McCourt. She told me that I need to add some transitions between two paragraphs. To have a good organization, I should put a conclusion sentence to match the topic sentence. After going to writing help room, peer review and conference, I changed my essay in some degree. First I restructured the thesis paragraph by combining some sentences and moved some sentences to the second paragraph. Reviewing the essay was really important. By doing this, I could find the misleading sentences and grammar errors. There was no doubt that after making some changes, my essay had a better organization than before. So I felt that my thesis was more logical and forceful.

The second piece I want to talk is the second presentation. Because compared with the first presentation, I think I get an improvement. I think that I keep my points concise and the flow from idea to idea is easy to follow. What’s more I spent much more time in making the PowerPoint, which was much more detailed than the first one.

Preparing a presentation was a hard work for me. Because the language style on spoken English was different from written English. I used to think how to connect my three evidences with my main idea, and what transitions should I say between each slide. When I making PowerPoint, I was thinking about what kind of pictures I could paste onto my PowerPoint. After searching a lot of sources online, I decided to use a picture which could show Beijing traffic jam. I thought only by showing pictures my classmates would understand what the background of my topic. The presentation was based on the mediation paper. However, the presentation was just seven minutes. So it was hard to decide which part I should present and which part I should ignore.

Since I took English 150 in community school, I missed a lot of interesting parts which should be in English class, such as group discussion, presentation. The first individual presentation experience is unforgettable. I learn a lot of presentation skills from English 250 which will help me a lot in the future class like Speech Communication 212. Besides fluently spoken English, body language and eye contact are useful. To answer questions from audience I have to well-prepared. I believe that presentation is really useful no matter on business or engineering.

Overall, I like OVE modes in English class. Group discussion will broaden my idea, and presentation will give me the courage of speaking in front of people. I hope, in the future, my instructor can show us videos in class and let us discuss the controversial topic. I think that will make the class have much more fun.