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That’s a wrap!

Four essays later, and I feel like I have learned enough. Each piece was different than the other. The first essay we did was different than any other essay I have done because we wrote in the first person. Plus, it was an image, so trying to figure out how to write this essay was a challenge for me. The free writes we did in class, surprisingly helped me become a bit more open about the image for this piece. The next essay that we did was for Professor Yankwitt; I confused analyzing for summarizing, which did me no good. That is when writing started to become a bit more difficult for me because I tended to summaries instead of analyzing the text. It seemed as if I had mistaken the two. For the exploratory essay, I felt like I did an excellent job interpreting, but as it turned out, I didn't do so well. Besides analyzing being a big problem, my essay's structure was weak. My thoughts were all over the place. I didn't interpret the quotes I used so well or connected it back to Freud. I felt so confident about this essay, which worried me, I thought to myself, 'why is that I feel good about this.' It is unusual to see myself feel comfortable submitting an essay, which is why, in some way, I felt like that is not a good thing. But I didn't let it get to me; I ignored that feeling and felt proud of my essay. But it all turned upside down when I received an email about my paper. I was allowed to redo it, and I did. I was assigned a tutor, and I worked with him for three days. This time I didn't feel so good about my essay, I knew that if I felt good about it, then the same thing might happen. Well, I wasn't so pleased with what I got, but at that point, that was the best thing I could receive.

Last but not least, the Critical Research paper, just the name, seems like too much. That was my intake of the essay at first. I wanted to do good in this essay; I worked with my tutor from the very beginning. He helped me with my proposal, we would sit together, and he would ask me questions about what I wrote. Like why did I write that, and he would make me explain to him so that he can see where I was coming from. When making this essay, I went through so many changes in focus. I wanted to focus on Claudia and the fact that we got Pecola's story through her perspective. But then I felt like I was talking more about Pecola and Cholly. I then made an outline (something I haven't done for the other papers). It made it easier to see what each paragraph might consist of — what Freudian concept I may talk about and the character that the paragraph is dedicated to. Since I allowed myself to organize my thoughts, I began gathering quotes that specifically supported an idea, which turned out to be the focus of that paper. Another thing that helped me in forming my essay was what I wrote for my presentation. It was a summary of what my essay should look like, so I then began to write my paper, and I included some parts of my speech into my essay.

Looking back at my assignment, I do feel like I have made some improvements, not big ones, though. To me, my writing structures have developed, and that has to do with Professor Von Uhl's class. In her class, we began to talk more about grammar and punctuation and how to fix our sentence structures. We learned the importance this plays in any writing. The peer reviews in-class helped a little, I felt like the last peer review we did (passing our paper to the left) helped more. We had different people reading different parts of our paragraphs. For each of my essay, I procrastinated, that is another weakness of mine. One thing that I noticed this semester is that I don't like to work under pressure, but sometimes it works. Which is why I think it is the reason why I would leave most of my assignment last minute. But because I do that so often it affects me; it stresses me out even more.

The audience of this portfolio is Professor Von Uhl, but out of the four essays, Professor Yankwitt was also the audience for three of my papers. To me, the purpose of this portfolio, reflections, and essays is so that my professors and I can see my development as a writer. I can see what I haven't improved on or have. All the conversations we have had in class about sentence structures, the text we will be using, or the sample essay was all social aspects that affected my writing process. It got me to think more about my essays, and were used for my last two essays.