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University of California, Merced ePortfolio
Writing Program: WRI 101, Fall '09

UCMERCED

Personal Introduction

In using this course to develop my academic self and become a better writer of psychology, I have dedicated myself to each assignment so that I could gain the most out of what the course had to offer. These subsequent artifacts show my progression as a writer and my personal development in the discipline.

Lavenant_First Impressions Assign.docx

Lavenant_Personal Statement.docx

Lavenant_Resume_Assignment.doc

The First Impressions assignment is significant towards my identity with the course because it shows where I started as a writer and how reluctant I was to take a writing course. The subsequent assignments, such as the Personal Statement and Resume show how I've progressed and grown as a writer. The Personal Statement demanded of me a certain level of looking into the future and creating long term goals that were not there before. It made me think about the future and what I wanted in life. The Resume portion taught me that I needed more experience with my respective field if I were to ever advance to a higher level.

A barrier that I faced in my writing occurred during the revision process. It was difficult for me to write in a stream of conscious style and then go back and revise. I learned that I'm a careful and thorough writer. I make sure that each sentence is coherent and that it relates to the previous sentence but this takes up a lot of time. Changing my writing style was something that I had to work on and show myself that it is indeed as effective as being thorough the first time around.

What I've discovered with my time in the course is that I've gone through a transformation in terms of how I approach writing for psychology and my mindset towards being more involved in research. Before this course I knew that being actively involved within psychology was an important step in developing a career but I was not as actively involved as I wanted to be. This course offered me a boost of energy and a better understanding of how to attain that goal by using the resources that were available to me through the university. I began looking into joining the Psychology club and help in any volunteering opportunities.

As I have said before, the Personal Statement got me thinking about furthering my education in a concrete way such as writing out my goals and illustrating my previous achievements. This got me thinking that I have been making an effort towards a serious career and that I can continue to do so. An important influence for my engagement in the course was how Professor Truong created a comfortable and personable educational foundation from which the students could express themselves freely. In closing, I feel that this course has helped me grow as a student of the psychology discipline and as a writer in general and helped me think about my future and the goals that I can achieve.

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Major: **Psychology**

Hometown: **Tracy**

Interests: **Reading, Psychology, Art, Music**

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