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# *Writer's Statement about "The Rhetoric behind College Football Recruiting"*

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KYLE COLTRAIN

The first day of the semester in ENC 1102, I was told that we would select a topic for a research paper that was to be used for the entire course. The topic had to be something current and had to be broad enough to research for an entire four months, as well as be able to correlate with rhetoric. Selecting the topic for the paper was the first and the most challenging part of the writing process for me.

Initially, I started my research with an entirely different topic in mind. I was going to write my paper on President Barack Obama's healthcare policy "Obamacare." This was a new and ongoing story which was to have an effect on me. Although I knew nothing about the policy and was not particularly interested in it, I figured there would be a lot of information pertaining to it and it would be a simple paper to write. I could not have been more wrong. After significantly struggling with the first two assignments, I met with my professor. We came to the conclusion that it was not lack of skill or understanding; it was simply lack of interest in the topic that led to roadblocks in the research and writing process. We discussed what my interests were, and with football being the most significant one, I pursued a topic in that field.

At first it wasn't easy finding a way to relate rhetoric to football. This took days of brainstorming, until I realized I was not looking at the term rhetoric at its core definition. I was thinking too much about it. Rhetoric can be defined as "the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing," and as soon as I grasped that definition I knew I could relate it to the aspect of football. I determined my topic to be "The Rhetoric behind College Football Recruiting."

The audience for the paper was directed at anyone who was interested in college football and who wanted a "behind the scenes" look at how the recruiting process worked. I really wanted to capture this audience and make my paper stand out more than others that had been written on this subject. After thinking on it for a while, I decided the best way to go about this paper was not to look at numbers and statistics, but to actually talk with heavily-recruited college football players. I also believed that interviewing college football players who had been recruited would be the best way to give my paper a significant amount of credibility and give the most interesting perspective to the reader. I decided to narrow the paper to three players' points of view to allow a diverse perspective while still being able to go into the detail of the research.

In essence, this paper was a journey. It had its ups and downs, but after narrowing the subject to something that held substantial interest to me and stripping rhetoric down to its most basic definition, it was smooth sailing. Overall, I am very proud of the outcome of this research paper and hope everyone enjoys reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.