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# *Writer's Statement about "Rhetorical Reflection on an Air Force IT Ad"*

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Ever since I was a kid, I knew writing was an easier form of communication for me. I'm not afraid to speak publicly or privately, but I do feel that communicating in a written format helps me share information on a more personal level sometimes. I never kept a diary or journal as a youth, but when I did need to relieve stress, I wrote. As an adult, I began to write less and talk more. After I finished grade school, my writing was quite minimal. I only wrote when necessary, and the necessity was quite uncommon. So once I started college at the age of twenty-four, I was afraid my writing was going to be marginal at best. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would be able to write about something that I actually cared about while taking a college-level Composition class. Professor Vanessa Calkins' ENC 1101 class helped me live that unimagined dream. My recollections from high school gave me the assumption that most scholarly writing consisted of research papers. Her class demolished that system of thought and helped me re-explore my old love for writing once more. We were required to compose three papers that counted as a significant portion of our grade. However, students were able to freely choose which discourse they wanted to discuss as long as each topic had a similar element within each paper: the life of the rhetor. My initial thought was, "Oh no! I hate writing about me! I'm boring." Furthermore, I became more scared about writing since I wasn't familiar with current formatting systems, and I wasn't able to recall rules of grammar etiquette. My fears were somewhat alleviated once the professor told the class that content was the emphasis rather than correct grammar and formatting. However, as one fear dies another can grow somewhere else.

One of the papers the class was required to write was a rhetorical reflection of a text the rhetor created for an activity system that the student observed. When the instructions were given to the class, the fear within me began to rise once more. I had no idea what I could write about that was within the local area. I was unemployed at the time, and I was also pretty much a lone wolf with limited interactions with other people inside or outside of my current classes. After a two-day thinking extravaganza, I finally came up with the idea of an activity system I was once a member of before: an IT technician in the United States Air Force. However, this activity system was nowhere near UCF. With the graciousness of my professor, I was able to use my former job as a technician as my new subject. After my own observations and an interview with a former colleague of mine, I created an advertisement that was to be used as a recruitment tool for young adults interested in joining the Air Force for telecommunications. Once the advertisement was complete, I wrote the rhetorical reflection emphasizing my ideas behind the advertisement and the choices I made during its creation.

Overcoming my initial fears about writing was one of the hardest constraints I faced when writing the rhetorical reflection. However, the only way I truly overcame the fear was continuing to

write. Once I finished this paper, I felt more comfortable writing again on a scholastic level. It showed me the true potential someone can have if they devote their mind to completing a topic, even if it's a simple reflection on an advertisement. I can only encourage people to write more to better themselves. It's definitely helped me become a better person and student.