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# *Writer's Statement about "Overcoming Differences in Global Communication in Order to Efficiently Complete Work in the Aerospace Engineering Community"*

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I remember when I was told that I had to take ENC1102 during orientation. I had to take this course because I was two marks away on my IB English exam from getting credit for this class. To be completely honest, English is not my favorite subject and I dreaded the fact that I had to take another year of it. More importantly, I felt like the best writing I had done was in high school in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. I was expecting endless pages of books to read and dreaded all-nighters, staying up to write countless pages on Microsoft Word. However, my previous dislike for English quickly transformed into a new found interest within the first week of class.

Before taking this course, I felt that writing was subjective and not an enjoyable activity. I felt as if teachers dictated how I was supposed to write and, as a result, I did not find it very amusing. These feelings were most likely created throughout my high school career when I was constantly bombarded with writing assignments across multiple classes every night. All my teachers had strict expectations and I only found writing fairly enjoyable when I wrote about a topic of interest. However, even then, my teachers would tell me that I wrote too much and I felt suppressed. Since I came from such harsh and demanding training throughout my academic career, one can imagine that I did not expect to learn anything from this course (a statement that I can now retract with full confidence, regret, and apologies). The most important aspect this course taught me was that I can find pleasure in writing. I had already learned how to write with scholarly language and grammar and so I found it hard to learn anything new in this course. However, it was not until I got to the discussion section of my research paper that I finally found a lesson to learn.

During the drafting activity, we were instructed to apply all of our data and research to form the discussion section. One of the aspects which I found hard to apply was presence and perspective. Previously, my teachers instilled the idea that there is not a single idea that is your own. As a result, past research papers were filled with parenthetical citations and multiple pages of works cited. In this course, I learned about the importance of personal voice and how establishing a presence in your paper can add to the credibility and rhetoric of your work. Without personal voice

and perspective, an individual is just simply reorganizing ideas and grouping them together on a single paper.

Revision has never really been an area importance to me. Due to the ever-pressing and tedious deadlines expected from me in high school, I never really found value in revision. My first draft was often my final draft. All my ideas had to be in the first draft and organized perfectly due to time constraints. However, in this course we wrote a single research paper over the course of approximately fifteen weeks. Without pressing deadlines, I was really able to incorporate all the elements of writing and research that I wished to in my research paper as well as reflect on my writing. However, Professor Calkins has shown me the importance of revision. Looking back at my research paper from the first draft to my very final draft, I see an immense improvement. I remember feeling extremely satisfied after writing 18 pages of data and sharing it on Snapchat at 2:00 a.m. Then, Professor Calkins told me to add presence and voice. This radically boosted my page count. It was through the multiple meetings that I saw the difference revision makes in writing. While planning and research are the basis for a research paper, revision is the most essential part for the completion of a *quality* research paper.

Effective research results in more ease during the actual writing process. Before this course, I just went on the Internet to find sufficient information to get through a research paper. This habit, as mentioned before, was also a result of pressing deadlines in high school. I would say that I spent over half of this course planning and researching. I have never done such extensive research and data collection before in my life. I found the most relevant and valuable information from my interview and observations. Physically going to a different place and collecting data makes a noticeable difference in the value and content of the paper. I was most surprised to learn that there is a plethora of information in an effective interview. I never conducted an interview before this project and found that it is extremely effective in gathering information. If you plan questions properly and make proper arrangements, you can benefit greatly from an interview. I received more information than I knew what to do with!

Before this course, I did not know the definition of a community, as defined by this course. In fact, it took me a while to catch on to what a community really was. The way the term “genre” was used in this course was also new to me. When asked if the class was confused, I, being the introverted person that I am, did not raise my hand (which would have probably helped me catch on to the definition quicker). I also learned that I had so much more to learn about my future career. Most importantly, learning about communities helped me see aerospace engineering in a new perspective. I never really thought about what it meant to be an aerospace engineer. I realized the importance of communication in this professional community. The information I gained from my research will help me develop skills earlier.

As mentioned before, I thought that I would not learn anything in this course. I felt that my years of sleepless nights and sore hands from writing in IB were the pinnacle of my writing career and abilities. The most important thing I’ve learned in this course and through this paper is that I have a passion for writing and I can freely write while still being professional and scholarly. This new found interest might prompt me to minor in English or pursue some sort of writing as a hobby in the future.