The idea of a full semester research paper can squander any frivolous freshman from finding their footing at the forefront of college. Personally, the conception of my ENC 1102H class contained promises of success and accomplishment to an assignment that none of us had completed before, and we were intimidated. While I thought that I would dread the research and the endurance needed to develop a proficient paper, the entire process would be a journey that would enlighten me. Knowing the task that lay ahead, my intuition for discovering my topic was deeply rooted by the time we had started. The first assignment, which discussed three ideas for the paper, did not even have my topic of choice; however, pondering about those frameworks did inspire my final choice. By the time I was set on discovering gender-marked language on social media websites, my line of sight was so focused that I became engrossed in developing a quality research plan. But even at that point, I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

The paper was professional yet personal because of the research topic and the application of the research findings. As someone who seeks to develop interactive strategies for educational purposes, this paper reinvigorated my passion for trying to learn more about who we are from the technology we created and our discourse on it. Despite the differences in everybody’s usage and opinion, this paper resonated with the love and respect for social media use. The subjects appreciated websites such as Facebook and Instagram for their ability to keep everybody open-minded and accepting. Hopefully, we can exploit these findings for education as well.

Tedious struggles began with the annotative bibliography. Having to write about writing was quite an uneventful task. However, that process gave me a formation of how researchers construct arguments and conclusions based on developed research. Fortunately, collecting primary research was exciting because not only was the topic close to home, but it allowed my perspective on our beloved technology to adapt to the findings. My research plan was a commitment to record and synthesize all gender-marked data from selected subjects from social media websites. Collecting unbiased data from random peers allowed me to interpret honest evaluations of social media, trends, and ideologies of language. Additionally, by analyzing the subjects’ answers to research questions, I learned their true attitudes towards the language and how it is used on these sites.

Ultimately, this paper employed the scientific method to establish a rational conclusion based on falsifiable and testable research. The road to completion gave the mindset that is crucial for future endeavors, from self-discovery to solving global problems. I feel like a more responsible, thorough thinker that needed very meticulous dissonance throughout the process. For future students, take this as an opportunity to become enlightened by discovery and reevaluation of your beliefs based on your data. There were many aspects of the data that I falsely predicted. However,
that process gave me great practice for conducting my own research. With that said, all of preliminary assignments really kept me on track and my vision focused. Every step of the journey has a purpose; stay patient and the end result will be greater than you could imagine.

I never thought that a course I hesitantly selected would make a profound mark on my outlook for research and understanding. It was an experience that made leaps and bounds on discipline, grit, and confidence as a writer and a thinker. My advice to future composition students is to never lose determination in finding the answer you seek. Even when my topic or main points were not developing well, I always kept pushing and writing to spring new ideas. I was unsure where that butterfly effect would take me, and I know that my paper would not be close to the strides it made today had I just sat down and thought about my topic for months. It was the constant drive to write and retool my work to accomplish the levels it has. From the start, we underestimated our capabilities to make discoveries in the world, yet I learned more about socialization on the Internet sites more than I ever would just using or reading about them. By the end, I believe we ended up impressing ourselves in ENC 1102H for achieving a newfound sense of discovery.