Final Reflective paper.

English 203 was an amazing journey. I can’t deny that I was petrified in the beginning because everyone was talking about this course, describing it as a hard one. Each student was blaming his professor for making him/her suffer, and having low grades, or just grades that they don’t deserve! I can simply say that they were totally wrong.

In the beginning, Writing is a talent according to me. When the teacher asks her students to write an argumentative essay, defending a specific argument that we may have or did not hear about it, seems kind of easy while sitting in the class and thinking about it. But when going home and try to come up with ideas just to begin with the simple introduction, here the problems begin to flow. Being involved in argumentation demands awareness of what other people have said before, and like Dorothy Seyler, a professor of English at Northern Virginia Community mentioned in his book that when entering an argument we become participants in an ongoing debate, and being aware what other people have debated and argued (Seyler. n.d). Writing an argumentative essay is really challenging because in some places it may contradict with our own perspective and point of view. Finding information online and especially on AUB databases is another story, here begins the real suffering. Trying to search for visuals is also hard because we have to find visuals that match with our point we are trying to demonstrate to the audience. Surely, writing through words is more complicated than writing through visuals. First, Writing through words is writing a whole essay which is much harder than just posting some visuals and talk about them. In hard cases we just put a phrase under the visual in order to give a brief idea about its theme, but the rest is memorized. With words, organization of the text becomes a must, but with visuals we can rapidly come up with ideas easily and memorize them without any kind of stress and working in the nights to finish an essay, so it’s more time saving.

First of all, I did know that visuals are a very interesting way to convince others by our point view, but what I didn’t know is how we use them, how to introduce them into an Academic essay, or to which extent they can affect the audience. When the teacher gave us example about what other past students have worked, I was really surprised. For example the Visual about the Tattoo. After having an amazing experience using visuals, especially with the last essay, I find that visuals are more effective than talking, because a normal picture stands for a thousand words, and surely we won’t say a thousand words.

The most part I like in this course is Writing Academically. It is just a perfect way to write for real, because there isn’t just writing and then having a grade. In fact, and as Joseph D. Harris describes Academic writing as some kind of conversation, were the student read a text or learn a certain idea, then he talks about it while sharing his thoughts in the response, and in the same time responding to other classmates while giving comments. So I think it is a perfect way to teach, or advice other classmates and being teached, primarily by the teacher and secondary by other classmates.

There were many themes presented in class including: stereotyping, how the media has invaded our world, how certain games like Candy Crush dominated the “UNIVERSE” , objectivity by the media, how is Lebanon perceived by its citizens, and violence against women. I think my classmates chose these topics because these topics are the most popular events happening today in the world and especially in our country Lebanon. I think that each one of my classmates chose a certain topic that kind of related to him or have a certain effect on him/her. Personally, I chose the topic about objectivity of Media because I’m really worried about Lebanese citizens’ unity, and the future consequences of the whole country.

Actually, I don’t like to work in a group, I find it really hard. In the beginning when we were a group of four, it was difficult to get to know each mate, in order to break the ice in the beginning and then get to work. Each person in the group had a different point of view about each idea we think about, the thing that makes it hard. Everyone was not in the mood, we always postpone the day we will meet to do the Visual assignment and in the end we don’t meet. But we figure it out finally and made it. It was hard but we had fun. Working in pairs was much easier, because here I got the chance to talk with my only mate and take decisions with her, she helped me a lot and she was so cooperative. But of course I prefer working all by myself.

APA style is very demanding; it recommends lot of work and readings. I was happy because in 102 I learned how to use APA, and thought that it is the same here. It was not, one hundred per cent the same, but I really gain more experience and learned many new things including how to introduce Visuals in an essay which is very important, and I decided to use this technique not only in other English courses, but also in my major courses too. I was good in the beginning in Academic writing, but I became much better after having many essays and responses. I still have a problem in Grammar and sentence structure; I intend to practice more in future.

Thank you Miss Rima ☺

Reference:

Seyler, D. (n.d). Understanding the Basics of Argument. Retrieved from “After words” page 76

Harris, Joseph. D. (2006). Forwarding. Retrieved from “After words” page 56