

## Self Assessment Reflection

During the brief period of group work, I did not struggle with linguistic differences with my group members. I was able to understand my group members clearly and I do believe they were able to understand me clearly. We did spend time chatting about our values and interests which helped us feel more comfortable working together rather than feel like total strangers. We took into consideration each other's time and made sure that each meet was a convenient timing for all group members since we all led different personal lives. Since we worked on 2 assignments together, we got to meet multiple times as well as chat over our group text which we continued to do so to help each other out with the portfolio assignment.

I failed to work on drafting for any of my assignments. I always have had a hard time to break down the components of my papers and write them out as an outline or even in simplistic terms. I have an easier time forcing myself to sit at my laptop and start throwing my thoughts out onto a google doc. From there I do a lot of editing and revising since I essentially write up an entire essay of a rough draft. I do recall one peer review session for the technical description paper and I personally did not find it helpful. The feedback I received was brief and positive. It wasn't descriptive in what exactly was great in my paper and I do feel like I could have gotten a more honest feedback as to how I can improve my paper. However, I did enjoy participating in the peer review and providing feedback for my peer's essay. It gave me perspective on a different writing style, organizational patterns, grammar and sentence structure used. I think I gave honest feedback on the parts of the assignment that were great and other parts that needed improvement. I do think peer review can help one gain insight once you are editing and revising your paper and I think an honest review can go a long way.

I do not think audience expectations got in the way of my writing goals or assignments. I was aware of the kind of audience I would have for each of my assignments as we did go over it in class. This made me feel comfortable enough to use the writing skills I had previously developed to address the audience appropriately with useful information. I had never previously written a technical description and we were taught to write in a general, descriptive format to achieve the goal of a broad audience being able to understand the paper. It taught me to simplify my writing, provide explanations where necessary and organize my paper more effectively. As for the lab report, it was more challenging to write up scientific information whilst providing the background knowledge on terminology and information. It is hard to determine the level of education and knowledge an audience has to avoid including additional information and lose interest of the reader. I think that is something I would have to do further research on by studying various articles and popular writings to gain a broader perspective on it.

Even though our time in this class was brief, I do feel that I gained a lot of experience from collaborative work. I participated in a group for multiple assignments- the lab report and the presentation on the infographic. I thoroughly enjoyed working together with my peers to create a successful paper and presentation. I took on a leadership role which I would not classify myself to be a leader but I believe I succeeded in it. My group members and I were quite organized and cooperative in working together to accomplish our assignments within a timely fashion. We shared our phone numbers and created a group chat to keep in contact. We had scheduled meetings outside of class time in order to discuss how we would go about working on the lab report and the presentation. We would agree on different aspects that each individual would focus on and complete those so that we can move onto the next goal necessary to

complete our work. It even benefitted outside of our group work to help each other out in the class such as clarifying any confusion on an assignment or tips on writing skills.

We had one blackboard writing assignment to determine whether or not the citation was performed correctly. I found it extremely useful since I had never previously done APA citations and it helped gain familiarity on how to incorporate the citation style into my papers. It also helped interact with my peers and practice writing for a specific audience, in this case for my peers and professor. Another multimodal expression I had participated in was the Wordpress site. We had created a portfolio that displays all the work and achievements we had accomplished during the length of our class. I do love the idea of this because it gives you the chance to compile all your efforts into one accessible location and be able to view your improvements and accomplishments in its entirety.

The one assignment I confidently articulated a stance on was the infographic. The purpose of the infographic was to inform a mature audience of the information provided while simultaneously convincing the audience to make a change in their lives from the information learnt. I initially started off the title of the infographic to draw attention and concern of the reader. I proceeded to show statistics of the reason for concern on the topic by using a donut chart and writing a brief sentence alongside it. I then included a simple quote and an explanation on what the root issue is of the topic. I proceeded to include more alarming statistics and then finished off strong with a summarization of the concern the audience should have formed by the end of the infographic and an awareness to improve.

For the lab report, I heavily relied on the online Cuny library database to locate sources. It is an extremely helpful option to have as a college student since it is hard to find reliable, accessible sources via Google. Each of my group members had used the Cuny library for sources

for the lab report and compiled all the articles together to be used for our paper. We were all able to access the articles and participate in retrieving information from the sources. It is important to have accessibility when partaking in a joint research project.

Both the lab report and the infographic had strengthened my skills in finding sources for information that would be interesting to a reader and bring a new point of interest to the conversation. For the lab report, as I browsed through various sources, I had to check the articles and studies for accuracy and validity . Additionally, I had to check whether the source had addressed the topic I was writing the lab report on. I had previously not put much effort into reviewing my sources and I did learn that it can be very beneficial especially when it's for scientific purposes. While doing research for the infographic, I had to be checking sources to be sure the facts were correct since the purpose of an informative infographic is to provide factually accurate information in a concise, easily readable format. These assignments brought my attention to reviewing sources and fact checking them prior to incorporating them into my work.