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Self Assessment

From the beginning of this semester, I sought to hone my writing skills since, as a future engineer, a major part of my job will relate to writing reports and proposals in a technical format. Throughout the semester I have written a technical description, memo, lab report, and engineering proposal. All of these pieces of writing are exemplary of the pieces that an engineer would have to write. By writing these pieces and receiving and giving feedback, I was able to improve my writing and enhance my skills as an engineering student.

Throughout the semester, I have participated in several discussion boards on the platform that the writing class was conducted (Blackboard). These discussion boards consisted of students posting ideas, drafts, and opinions, and other students replying to the posts in an attempt to have an ongoing discussion. In these discussion boards, I learned to better acknowledge the work and opinions of my peers while giving my own critiques. For example, in one of the last discussion boards me and two other students shared our drafts for our engineering proposals and evaluated each other's work. My proposal related to improvements in the MTA and my peer offered the idea of incorporating the idea that \$200 million dollars that were lost as a result of fare evasion could be a reason for the MTA being unable to remain self-sufficient. I took this critique into account and utilized it in my proposal. In this discussion board, after reviewing my peers' work, I offered some insight regarding subjects that must be included in an engineering proposal such as cost and materials, which they took into consideration. I acknowledged my peers and my own range of linguistic differences and this helped me develop a sense of rhetorical sensibility.

The use of drafting, revising, and self assessing were crucial to my success in this writing class. For each piece, I assessed, revised, and edited my writing. This is demonstrated in my

technical description. The first draft that I created, which described the model-o gaming mouse was very thorough and detailed as a result of my constant revision. I decided to include my own diagrams and pictures while thoroughly researching and explaining the product at hand. As a result of this, my final draft of the technical description did not differ much from the first draft. I only improved in the aesthetic and organization of the piece, which could also be considered revision and self assessment. As a result of my strong revision strategies coming into the class, I did not really enhance much but I continuously checked my work and thought about ways to improve the writing that I was turning in.

While writing my pieces, I had to negotiate my writing goals and my audiences expectations. My technical description exemplifies how I balanced the goal of the writing piece with my audience's expectations. I provided the audience with nice pictures and diagrams of the product at hand while being able to thoroughly explain the parts of the mouse and how they work together such as how the Pixart 3360 sensor on the mouse is “responsible for the movement of the mouse” on the computer screen. Here I was able to satisfy the audience by providing visual representations while also explaining the product well.

I was able to develop and engage in collaboration very well through the use of discussion boards. As mentioned previously, discussion boards were a source of peer review and were very helpful when writing the pieces. I communicated with my peers and gave them feedback on their pieces while acknowledging and utilizing the feedback that they gave me. Additionally, when doing the memo assignment, which was a group assignment, I communicated with my teammates over text and we all shared ideas, coming to agree on writing about a MTA gating system. We then continuously checked each other's work and wrote parts of the memo as one

teammate was responsible for research, the other was responsible for the submission of the writing and the last was responsible for supervision of the topic.

Regarding my engagement in genre analysis and multimodal composing, I don't feel like I did very well throughout the semester. I feel as though my pieces were somewhat one dimensional as my peers' work seemed more appealing and aesthetic than mine. That is something that I tried to improve on through the incorporation of pictures and diagrams relating to the genre, which helped my pieces be more appealing and appropriate in context. This is exemplified in my technical description with the pictures and diagrams of the mouse and in my memo and lab report with the bolded and underlined phrases to better organize my writing.

In my engineering proposal, I demonstrated that I was able to formulate and articulate a stance., I emphasized the point that the MTA turnstiles are not very efficient and the money lost as a result of people evading fare can be saved. I supported this statement by including facts and percentages relating to money that the MTA lost and the amount of riders that evade fare. In my proposal I utilized science direct and the gale database to find some sources. I found other general sources using google. I entered key words relating to the proposal such as "fare evasion" and "MTA". Additionally, in my proposal I demonstrated how well I am able to integrate sources as I utilized quotes in my proposal and paraphrased some material while citing everything that I used. I integrated information from the MTA website relating to fare cost and metro prices and quoted from articles that demonstrated the amount of money that the MTA has lost in the last year.

At the beginning of this semester, I did not think that writing was very important. However, as I continued to progress and write new pieces, I came to the realization that engineers must provide written ideas and designs in order to remain productive and communicate

with other people. Having finished the semester, I have come to understand that writing is a way for me to express my creativity and ideas in a written form. Writing is the most important aspect of an Engineer's job.