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Lab Report Analysis – Self Reflection

This was the first time I've come across writing a Lab Report Analysis. The idea was to have an in-depth understanding of the format of a lab report and its real-world applications. The students were asked to choose three lab reports on a similar subject to analyze. I didn't feel it was challenging to find a subject of research. In my opinion, the real obstacle of this assignment was trying to locate reports that weren't too long. Lab reports should be detailed-oriented and have clear observations however, it can be time-consuming to analyze reports that are bulky. It was interesting to see the different ways people took to approach the same objective including the techniques they used. I didn't want my lab report analysis to make one lab report "outshine" the others, but as an overall judgement on the format and style for all reports.

For this assignment, I chose to write an analysis about lab reports written about the effect's music can have on physical and academic performance. I approached each lab report with an open-mind, I did not start comparisons until I finished reading the third lab report. When writing the lab report analysis, we were guided by our peers and professor in many ways on how to approach the analysis. I chose to fully read each lab report individually and then dissect each section of all reports together. This seemed the most logical way to write the analysis. Lab reports are a real-world application used in many different fields. It's important to recognize the difference between proper and improper reports. However, what I did not like about this assignment, although necessary, is the amount of times I had to repeat who I am talking about in every single sentence. I know how important it is to clarify this, but it can become overwhelming.

I acknowledged the difficulty of the assignment after the first draft edits. I underestimated the amount of details that needed to be developed in the lab report analysis. I received comprehensive and constructive criticism from both my professor and peers about what I needed to fix in the analysis. I believe after looking at the first batch of comments, the edits I made completed the analysis in a much better way. What I could've done was asked my peers how they approached the analysis, the type of information and details they used, and what information

was necessary to mention and what made the analysis sound unprofessional. For any future lab report analysis that I write, I know now that I need to be as accurate, comprehensive, organized, and clear about what I intend to inform my audience about.

Using my rhetorical situations in this assignment were natural. Last semester in English 110, it was confusing and unclear in the beginning, but as I got to progress throughout the semester, it wasn't as challenging anymore. I did not have to stop constantly and think if they were incorporated, now I know I did and proof-reading my lab report analysis proves that. The genre of this assignment is obviously a lab report analysis, I wanted to analyze three lab reports surrounded around the same subject. I was motivated by my interest in music and how it can influence people, either in a positive or negative way. It fascinates me on how music can affect people in ways that weren't paid enough attention too. I hoped I accomplished the assignment by using the right components of a lab report analysis.

Furthermore, I did achieve four of the Course Learning Outcomes for this class. CLO #1: "acknowledge your and others' range of linguistic differences as resources and draw on those resources to develop rhetorical sensibility". I will say this was the most accurate and efficient course learning outcome that I've achieved thus far in this course. It's not always easy letting others give input on a piece of writing that you believe is your best work. However, constructive criticism has proven to me that it helps in the writing process for any assignment. Also, CLO #2: "enhance strategies for reading, drafting, revising, editing, and self-assessment". I would say reading the lab reports thoroughly, drafting my first analysis, and editing for the final version were important components in this lab report analysis. I needed to gather information in order to know what I was going to write about.

In addition, CLO #4: "develop and engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes". When the class did peer edits, it was helpful to see how others view what I can do with my writing and how I change certain things to further develop a stronger statement. Lastly, CLO #8: "strengthen your source use practices (including evaluating, integrating, quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, synthesizing, analyzing, and citing sources)". Throughout the lab report analysis, the students were advised to refrain from using any quotes because it was not necessary. It was acceptable and more accurate to paraphrase what I was giving an analysis on rather than quoting it verbatim in the paper many times.