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<u>Technical Description – Self Reflection</u>

This was the first time I've come across writing a Technical Description. The idea of the assignment was to produce a technical description that was a written and visual representation of an object. Technical descriptions are useful documents that provide information on how an object looks, its purpose, its composition, etc. It is also useful for proposals, planning, and for informing an audience on who may need to know the specifications of the object. I learned that technical descriptions are not just reports on how something works, it's also persuading your audience why your object is the best in its group.

Students were asked to choose an object to analyze. I chose to write about the SHURE SLX2/SM58 Vocal Microphone. I didn't feel it was challenging to find an object to write and research about. I feel passionate about music therefore I chose an object that all musicians use whenever they have a live performance in front of a large crowd, a microphone. In my opinion, the real obstacle was trying to find images of the microphone taken apart, exposing all of its parts so I can explain their functions. The only images I could locate were on the manufactures website and other companies who had the same version of the microphone.

It was interesting to see the different components of a microphone. I wouldn't expect microphones to have detachable accessories. When writing my technical description, we were guided by our peers and professor in many ways on how to approach the description. Unfortunately, the peer reviewing was not in person due to classes having to be moved online. This has a major negative affect on our papers because when participation was being observed in the classroom, everyone in the group had to be active in the discussion. Now that it was moved online, I can't trust my fellow classmates to offer similar insights on how I did because they may not see the importance of peer reviewing as I do. Therefore, they may not provide similar in-depth opinions when they are at home.

Technical descriptions are a real-world application. It's important to recognize the difference between a proper, well written technical description rather than a mediocre one. What I did not like about this assignment, although necessary, is the amount of research that was

needed to be done. It's frustrating when you can't find the results you need and it's so time consuming, it can become overwhelming.

I acknowledged the difficulty of the assignment after the first, second, and three draft edits. I underestimated the amount of details that needed to be perfected in the Technical Description. I received comprehensive and constructive criticism from both my professor and peers about what I need to fix. Although it wasn't the traditional way of peer-reviewing, I was still able to get some sort of feedback from different people about what I should improve on in the description. I believe after looking at the many set of comments, the edits I made formatted the description in a much more professional way. What I could've done differently was asked my peers how they approached their description. Because everyone had a unique object to research and write about, it was a little challenging to see how to approach the project. Although our information wasn't exactly the same, the genre/topic of information was the same. A sample format of how the Technical Description should be written was also given on the syllabus. For any future technical description that I write, I know now that I need to be as accurate, comprehensive, organized, and clear what I intend to write about.

Using my rhetorical situations in this assignment came naturally. 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. The genre of this assignment is obviously a Technical Description, I wanted to analyze the Shure SLX2/SM58 Vocal Microphone. I was motivated by my interest in music and curiosity on how such an essential object used my many musicians worldwide works.

Furthermore, I did achieve many 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." 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 something you believe is your best work. However, constructive criticism has proven to help me in the writing process. Also, CLO #2 "enhance strategies for reading, drafting, revising, editing, and self-assessment." I would say drafting, revising, and editing happened a lot in the process of writing the Technical Description. I wrote three drafts before I came to a final version of what I thought was my best work. In addition, CLO #4, "develop and engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes." It was helpful to see how others view my

work so I can change things to further develop a stronger statement. Lastly, CLO #7, "practice using various library resources, online databases, and the Internet to locate sources appropriate to your writing projects." Research was a major component for this assignment. No student could write their Technical Description without doing research on their object. I used many websites to help me gather my information and I properly cited my sources.