

# Semester self reflection



Taking CLC 12 has helped me better my organization and writing skills by practicing the writing process with each essay, being able to incorporate outside resources into my work using ML standards of quotation and reference, and being able to write a correct works cited page according to ML standards.

Based on the comments I received from my professor at the beginning of the semester, I needed to work on these very things. When writing an essay there are steps you should take to build towards that essay. First you brainstorm to get yourself going and get an idea of what you'd like to write.

Then, you create an outline that breaks down your essay (choosing angle, intro. Thesis, body paragraphs, and conclusion). Using that outline you make longer sentences and create your first draft.

After receiving a grade for that first draft, using the comments the professor wrote about your essay, you should revise or rewrite that essay to create your second draft. You then repeat that process and do some minor editing and that would be your final draft. I never used to brainstorm or write an outline, then write my first draft.

I would write whatever possibly came to mind and hand it in as my "first" or "rough" draft.

I realized, with the help of my professor, that it was in my best interest to use this writing process to organize any information that I'd be using to write my essay. All claims made in an essay should be supported by an outside

source of information. This information is usually found during the research process using a database or websites that end in . Org or . Du.

My first draft of essay number one didn't have supporting evidence, everything was by word of mouth or I didn't include the source.

For example, on second page of my essay there's a comment that states "find more supporting evidence/outside sources" (SST. Louis, Essay 1. 2).

I took my professor's input and revised according to her comments. In my second draft I incorporated evidence from outside sources to back my argument and give my claim more credibility. I now understand how to incorporate supporting evidence using outside sources and what they can do for your essay. Along with incorporating supporting evidence and outside sources, you must cite these sources on a works cited page and as in text citations.

With most of my essays I bibliography, but I was made aware that a works cited page is still necessary.

A works cited page is necessary to show the reader where you got your information and that you got your information from a credible source and so you pay recognition to the author of that work. I've heard of in text citations before in high school but we didn't practice them much, so incorporating them in my essays for CLC 12 was a challenge. In my first draft for essay number one I received constructive criticism that said "citation" (SST. Louis, Essay 1 . 1), meaning to add in citations to inform the reader where I got my info.

The second time around, for the first draft of essay number two, it was much easier. I had my in text citations down, but I still hadn't quite grasped the concept of the works cited page at the end of my essay. In both of my essays for the semester I couldn't get the formatting of my works cited page correct. When writing my second draft my professor had to further explain to me how to do a works cited page instead of using Sybil. Com. After two tries I figured it out, and now all is well.

Taking CLC 12 Controversial Issues this semester really changed the way I think about writing and how I write.

I now have better organization skills like doing research, finding information and piecing them together to create a rough draft of my essay. I also feel like I have more control over my writing because of the changes I've made in organizing my essays. I feel that I have more control of my writing because "when I write about something I basically control what the reader can take from that essay all based on how I approach my topic. Taking this class has shown me how to voice my thoughts and share them with others on paper and verbally.

In writing there's always room for improvement, whether you're a good or poor writer.