

Informal letter about
top two things i
learned this semester
about my writing



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Throughout the progression of this I learned a wide variety of things concerning my writing. While it's clear that there are endless things I learned throughout the course, I believe there are two main things learned: the step by step process, as well as how to properly research for an essay. In terms of the step-by-step process, there were a great many aspects that I learned about and skills I strengthened throughout the course. While I had previously viewed writing essays as a more free-form means of expression, I increasingly came to understand that in following certain steps my writing would improve. In these regards, I now begin my writing by developing a detailed outline of what I am going to write. In brainstorming and developing an outline, I am able to produce more developed ideas that ultimately make my essay stronger and more complex. While I recognized that writing constitutes specific forms, through this course I learned how to better adhere to these forms with the necessary structure and information. In these regards, I learned how to better develop an introductory paragraph that would set the tone of the essay, provide necessary background information, and include a thesis statement that would describe what the body paragraphs would contain. I also learned the importance of topic sentences that would lead to sentences that contained examples and information that supported the main purpose of the essay. Finally, I came to understand the importance of a conclusion paragraph that would summarize the key points that were raised in the body paragraphs. The other thing I learned about my writing during this course was the importance of the research process. While I had experience researching, being required to stringently search for material made me consider a number of aspects of the research and writing process. For instance, I recognized that it's highly important to find quotes

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that succinctly, but powerfully provide an example for the specific point that is being emphasized. The process of researching was an area that I strengthened throughout my participation in this course. While I had previously conducted research, being conducted to think about and analyze difficult and challenging topics meant that I needed to research more complex material. I also strengthened my skills in terms of citing the elements I researched. Ultimately, I recognize that I learned a great many things that will help me in my classes to come. The online discussions were one of the most enriching aspects of the course for me. In these online discussions I learned many things that will help me in future courses. While the course contained a great amount of writing and was at times challenging, I recognize that this writing and these challenges greatly aided me in improving my writing skills. In improving my writing skills I recognize that I will be able to communicate more powerfully and convincingly in a variety of contexts. Perhaps it is this knowledge that constitutes the most important thing I gained in this course.