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FIQWS Composition/Content

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Self-Assessment Essay

So far I have composed three analytical essays: the Literacy Narrative, Exploratory, and the Critical Research Essay. It was a different process for each essay, as well as the thoroughness. The essays were written through my different stages of maturity in writing, so how I proceeded with the Literacy Narrative is vastly different from the way I wrote the Critical Research Essay. I also wrote about different genres and rhetorical situations. In the Literacy Narrative, I described the physical situation of a painting and what I can deduce from the situation using the background knowledge about hysteria and doctors. In the Exploratory Essay, I analyzed the short story, “The Black Cat”, and how it connects to the Freudian concepts I learned in Alyssa’s class. In the Critical Research Essay, I researched and wrote about how Freudian concepts are present in *The Bluest Eye*. I wrote about both fictional and nonfictional substances. The rhetorical situation of all my essays are similar in the way that I have to use Freud and psychoanalysis in my thesis and as the foundation, however the rhetorical situations still differ. I analyzed the rhetorical situation of *The Bluest Eye* which was Toni Morrison’s critique on the cycle of trauma and how it is passed down to children and it was “portrayed through Pauline and Cholly’s displacement of strong, negative emotions and Cholly’s id-driven actions”. The Exploratory Essay was the first essay where I analyzed a text through a Freudian lens, and the rhetorical situation of “The Black Cat” was the demonstration of “Freud’s theory of

displacement and the transference of the unconscious mind to actions” and I used multiple pieces of evidence from the *The Five Lectures of Psychoanalysis* by Freud.

My strategy for drafting, revising, and editing is to write a thorough, organized outline. When I write a really good outline, it’s easy for me to write the essay, I just have to add on to what I’ve already written. With revision and editing, an outline helps me remember what the bigger picture is and what I need to fix in my essay. I also reviewed commenti received from earlier essays to help me understand what else I need to add. A strategy I use for collaborating multiple texts for the purpose of my thesis is to use one text as the basis and then using the other texts as the supporting evidence. For example, I used “The Black Cat” as the foundation of the Exploratory Essay and *The Five Lectures of Psychoanalysis* as the supporting text for my claims. For reading, I read from top to bottom and underline/circle what might be useful in my essay. For instance, I highlighted lines from *The Bluest Eye* that would later prove to be necessary for my argument.

I used mainly diction as a rhetorical strategy to emphasize my claims and my presentation of evidence. In the Literacy Narrative, I had to describe how I felt about a portrait and I used the word indignant as a way to embolden what my interpretation of the rhetorical situation in the portrait was. The discrimination I perceived from the portrait can best be described by the word indignant. For every essay, I participated in multiple peer review sessions, online and in person, and I definitely put into consideration the feedback I received from my classmates. I’ve gotten comments about my essay not having enough evidence or having a weak thesis and I would revise my essay according to the feedback. I also had my essay reviewed by my two tutors and they helped me construct the essay more logically.

I used Blackboard turn in my essay assignments to reach both Alyssa and Elizabeth. One day, we had a class dedicated to the librarian teaching us how to utilize the CCNY library database. I used the research tips I learned in that class while writing my Critical Research Essay, however, I did not need to evaluate source credibility or accuracy because my sources came from a prominent research site: JStor.

When integrating my stance with the appropriate sourcing, I used the strategy of summary and then interpretation. I summarized or explained the Freudian concept or what the circumstances are, then I analyzed and connected that to my argument. The best time I used this was for the Exploratory Essay, I had to summarize a little of the story and the Freudian concepts I was using: “according to Freud, this is caused by resistance: ‘some force that prevented them from being conscious and compelled them to remain unconscious’(Freud 2212)”. Then I made the point I wanted to make that needed context: “The mind finds ways to keep unwanted thoughts hidden in order to protect the conscious; consequently, the narrator does not recognize his sudden violence or malice”. Sometimes, the content of my thesis statement can use some context and explaining in order for me to successfully convey my message. I also used the strategy of critical analysis. For every quote, I used a couple sentences of analysis that would connect to the thesis or to Freud. The analysis evaluated how or why the quote connects to the overall argument. I practiced the systematic application of citation conventions in MLA format. The sources, when quote, are in parentheses with the author’s last name and the page number. If there is no page number, I would fill in with n.pag, such as the citation of “The Black Cat”: (Poe n.pag).

