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Writing for Engineering

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Writing for Engineering was a very important part of my time at The City College of New York so far. The ambitions and objectives set by the course would be very beneficial for me as a student in the future. Writing this essay is an honor because I can look back and see the progress I have made throughout the semester. This course combined two of my favorite educational categories, writing, and engineering. As a student, I was always passionate about my writing and this class gave me the freedom to express my linguistic level and ideas. Now, when it comes to engineering, I have decided to make it a part of my life for a long time. I want to pursue a career in the field and in January I was excited to attend the lectures and build on my knowledge. The course combined everything I expected from the start, analysis, teamwork, and individual challenges that would improve my skill level in both categories.

The first topic discussed in the course was the importance of technical communication in engineering. Technical communication is a very important topic that helps people in the field of engineering, it combines procedures and regulations with various technological fields such as social media, websites, and many more. At the end of the day the main goal of technical communication is to persuade the audience, but also keep in mind that the audience has some knowledge of the topic discussed. A writer should always gain some background information before writing a technical communication, and keep the audience interested throughout the presentation. In addition to background knowledge, a writer should learn and improve his/her

writing skills from feedback. Revising and editing can only improve a piece of writing and help the writer in all aspects.

The first main assignment of the course was the Lab Report. The Lab Report's main goal was to have students dig into the CCNY Library Database and find two articles on their engineering major. The assignment combined the importance of annotation and analysis, students had to read through the two chosen articles and analyze the main points brought up by the writers. Students were exposed to a new format of citations (APA) which they would follow for the rest of the semester. The assignment introduced me to the fantastic CCNY Database which will be very beneficial throughout my time as a CUNY student. When it comes to my experience with the Lab report, I did not have difficulty finding articles on civil engineering or adapting to this new format of citations. Unfortunately, I never got the chance to finish my work due to some health issues I was going through at the time, but I promised myself to complete this assignment by the end of the semester to evaluate my progress fully.

Following the completion of the first main assignments, the students were introduced to the significance of peer reviews. In the field of engineering, the importance of peer reviews is critical. No engineer should take decisions on their own, the best option is to share ideas with their peers, listen and improve based on the feedback they receive. Another reason why peer reviews are beneficial is that they make the groups of people working together push each other to the maximum of their abilities and produce a high-quality product. Peer reviews would make a return in the future on another assignment. The second main assignment of the course was the Technical Description. Students were instructed to pick a technological item of their interest and explain its functionality and purpose. The assignment references a lot of aspects of technical communication, such as the item's mechanism and virtual presentation. The students were then

instructed to talk about the exterior and interior parts of the item and include pictures to showcase how every part is put together. Before the technical description discussion of the item, students were expected to talk about the item's history, innovation, and overall impact on the technological industry. When it comes to this assignment, I had a lot of fun. I picked the much-beloved Nintendo Switch, and its breakdown was very intriguing to me. It's mesmerizing how such a small piece of technology can function properly in more than one way and convince the audience that it's a worthy competitor to Sony's PlayStation and Microsoft's XBOX consoles. It was very easy for me to find every subpart and their descriptions using the official Nintendo website, which in my opinion was the hardest part of the assignment.

In March students were going to work on a collaborative assignment. The Engineering Proposal combined all the important lessons and goals that the course exposed the students to. It included a technical description, an analysis, a unique design, and lastly a creation of a video presentation that refers to technical communication and the audience. Students were instructed to create a unique object that could help improve various businesses and even public needs. I had the honor to work with an amazing group of people that had a lot of interesting ideas and concepts, and we were able to come up with an idea of a smart mirror that could scan the face of an individual and apply stylistic filters through its application. The object was called the "Utopie Smart Mirror" and I think the final product turned out to be very creative and met all the necessary criteria set by the instructor. Creating a YouTube presentation video was something I had never done in my time as a student before and it was an amazing experience, I was never a great public speaker but the confidence I have gained in the course helped me a lot during the voice recording progress of my area of presentation.

Lastly, students had to complete a Self-Assessment Essay and a digital portfolio of their work throughout the course to show their improvement and experiences during the semester. The essay itself is quite like the common self-reflection students had to write in some of their assignments. The main difference between these two very similar pieces of writing is individuality and the overall connection of various topics and aspects of writing for engineering. Reflections focused on an individual assignment and were quite short in length. On the other hand, Self-Assessment Essays are supposed to discuss the overall experience and progress that a student had to go through during the semester. The essay combines the different categories of writing and combines them to showcase the overall improvement made in this area of the field of engineering. Writing this assignment is currently giving me a lot of nostalgia, going back and thinking about the important things that I learned and the fantastic people I met is an absolute blessing. This course helped me a lot when it comes to improving my skills in the field and I will be forever grateful.

In conclusion, writing for engineering combined multiple aspects of writing with collaborative work. Engineers utilize technical writing to transmit knowledge to coworkers as well as anybody interested in investing in, purchasing, or using their products or services. Even at firms with technical writers on staff, encouraging workers to improve their writing and editing abilities benefits everyone. Technical writing understandably conveys important information. It aids project management by reducing things down into simple, succinct language, as in a business plan for investors. Internally, a well-written standard operating procedure provides employees with a resource when they are unable to consult their peers or superiors about a process. Engineers who can communicate technical knowledge save their companies time and money. You can get money, enhance productivity, and create a better work atmosphere by

understanding your audience and the best method to write for them. I believe that this course helped me in all aspects of writing and made it clear that teamwork is vital in the field of engineering. It was a pleasure learning such important lessons that will help me in my career.