

Writing is an important part of engineering or any other field and through the duration of my time in my writing for engineering, this feeling has only been reinforced. Prior to coming to this class, I've been an avid writer and although I've found the process of writing boring or even tedious in the beginning, I have found much of what I've written to be enjoyable. Writing is an exercise in intent and through writing, an author is able to accomplish a goal or a task of impacting an audience in one way or the other whether it is through disseminating information, persuading the audience of an idea, or proving a point. All of these can be done in different formats in writing such as telling a story or arguing and presenting evidence to support a claim. Through this writing for engineering class, I have explored different forms of writing and have gotten used to them, specifically, writing more technical papers. By exploring this different form of writing, I have been able to grow as a writer throughout the semester and understand more the importance of writing in any discipline.

Self-reflections are important auxiliaries to writing and through this semester, it's been woven into the curriculum through the requirement for one after every major assignment. Through my self-reflections, I've been able to measure how my papers accomplished course objectives as well as evaluate my progress in how well future assignments address course objectives to assess whether I've learned from past mistakes to make my writing better. This has led me to become a better writer and will greatly benefit me in any writing assignments in the future. The major papers for which I wrote a self-reflection essay, and for which I will be discussing in this essay, were titled, "Comparison of Lab Report Elements," "Technical Description of Eyeglasses," and "Engineering Proposal and Presentation." Through these assignments, I hope to demonstrate my growth as a writer and the level of success I've had with the course objectives.

The “Comparison of Lab Report Elements” was an assignment that required us to select two scientific papers, analyze and describe their use of the lab report elements as stipulated in Chapter 19 of Mike Merkel and Stuart Selber’s *Technical Communication* (12th edition), and ultimately decide which had the better and more effective use of the lab report elements. I compared two papers, “*A five-day course of ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19 may reduce the duration of illness*” and “*Cognitive deficits in people who have recovered from COVID-19*” which both focus on aspects in the COVID-19 pandemic. I analyzed how well they used the lab report elements in each of the sections of a lab report including the abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, and conclusion using citations from both reports as evidence. Ultimately, I decided that the lab report, “*Cognitive deficits in people who have recovered from COVID-19*” was more effective in its use of the lab report elements because although it slightly deviates from the elements it still communicates its message more easily than the other lab report.

This assignment was an especially good example to consider in evaluating the level of success I’ve had in meeting course objectives due to the multiple skills tested in completing the assignment. First, I had to familiarize myself with multiple scientific journals and search for and select lab reports for my assignment. Then, I annotated both lab reports to show understanding of their contents. Moreover, I exercised in aspects of writing such as taking a stance and providing evidence through my assertion of which lab report was most effective in the use of lab report elements and use of examples from both reports to support my claim and writing. My classmates reviewed my assignment and I was able to review theirs for this assignment which reinforced the social and collaborative aspects of writing and, writing for an audience of my classmates and my professor meant that I had to consider my audience when writing and provide additional

explanations and background information in my writing which I may not have needed to do with an expert in the field. Although I practiced many skills with this assignment, the skill that was most emphasized through my foray into the realm of scientific writing was engaging in genre analysis and multimodal composing to explore effective writing across disciplinary contexts due to the nature of the assignment and because it was my first introduction to writing of this nature.

The “Technical Description of Eyeglasses” was an assignment that required me to choose a technological item and explain its components, process of production, and purpose. The components were divided into parts and subparts which I was supposed to explain and describe in detail. I completed my technical description assignment on eyeglasses, writing about the history and evolution of eyeglasses and then delving into the components and how all the parts come together. My conclusion was that our ability to see is fascinating and through history there have been movements to advance eyewear as new input materials were discovered and it has continued to the present through attempts to infuse technology into eyewear.

Through this assignment, I practiced a wide range of skills and touched on a lot of course objectives. I had to research and find information to use in my technical description assignment. Where the previous assignment emphasized multimodal composing, I would consider the overarching objective of this paper research. I exercised skills such as searching for reliable information and using reliable websites and apprehending and amassing what information I was able to find about my subject, glass, to present in an organized and comprehensible manner within my paper. Sourcing my information and ideas was also a major part of this assignment as I used multiple references and addressed them in my essay and I used paraphrasing or integrating quotes widely in this paper due to the need to describe information in a way that was easy to understand.

The last major assignment, “Engineering Proposal and Presentation,” was one where I had to work with 3 other group members to deliver a written proposal and an oral presentation of an innovation designed to address a specific need in society. My group and I came up with a cat washer that sought to take advantage of the difficulty in washing cats and the need for automated cat washers and we offered a design that addresses multiple factors such as cost, components, process etc. We then recorded an oral presentation on youtube justifying the need for our product and explaining the process and the components needed for the cat washer. This assignment was multi-faceted and simultaneously addressed many course objectives due to the amount of work required for the project.

The overarching objective of this project would be the social and collaborative aspects of writing simply because writing with a group was quite different from anything that I was used to. Our team had to learn to assign roles and assume functions and work and communicate effectively with each other using social media. Moreover, the oral presentation meant that we needed to talk to one another frequently outside of class meetings to plan for the presentation and to think through what the presentation should look like and how we could coordinate effectively to deliver a successful presentation. Another aspect of the social and collaborative aspect of writing was acknowledging each other’s range of linguistic differences and manipulating and drawing on them to make our paper coherent and more effective. Other objectives addressed within this assignment are research due to the detailed information needed for the design and the innovation, i.e., cost, time, materials, etc. and, and consideration of the audience due to the fact that our presentation was to be shown to our classmates which made a focal point within our presentation to be engaging the audience through amusing images and animations and emphasizing the need for our product throughout the presentation. We intentionally refrained

from including the more technical in our proposal in the slides to maximize audience engagement.

For the Lab Report assignment, I did not fully meet the course objectives particularly in my first draft. There was a learning curve associated with an assignment that required me to conduct a genre analysis and multimodal composition since this was my first time engaging in such an exercise, and as such, I didn't fully have the knowledge of how to write it. With my first draft, I attempted to apply the form of writing essays that I learned from other English classes and as I admitted in my reflection, I over-sensationalized the essay, pitting the two lab reports against each other to make for an interesting read. However, I noticed my error after reviewing feedback from it and I corrected it as much as possible. Still, I don't feel that I met the course objectives to the fullest extent because my essay was a little rushed so I didn't have as much time as I should have writing the essay, and therefore did not exercise all the skills the assignment was supposed to test.

The technical description assignment was different and I think it was better than the last. Even though this was also rushed, I took my time to conduct research and polish my essay and I also took the feedback from peer reviewers to improve my essay. I noticed from the feedback my peers gave me that some parts weren't clear so I edited my essay being more conscious of the audience to make it easier to read. The social and collaborative aspects of this paper were successful because of how well the peer review session went. I provided feedback and my classmates provided me with sufficient feedback in turn to better my essay and the discussion of each other's work flowed smoothly. The challenge with the engineering proposal and presentation lay in coordinating with my other group mates. However, that was an issue that was quickly and easily resolved as we were able to connect with one another and working on the

project went smoothly thereafter. As I mentioned earlier, our group tried to take the audience into account and that was another strength with this paper that we were not only mindful of the audience while writing but that we edited and reframed our work to resonate with the audience.

To end, throughout the duration of the semester and with these different assignments, I feel that I have managed to address course objectives to a greater extent in more recent assignments and so although I didn't have a good start to the course objectives, I exercised the course objectives in subsequent assignments and now have a decent grasp on the skills proffered by the course objectives.