

Paul Franco

Writing For Engineering – ENGL 21007

Professor Davidow

Theory of Writing

Before taking this class, my theory of writing was that it was simply a means of conveying information or ideas to an audience using language. I saw it as a straightforward process of gathering information, organizing it in a logical manner, and presenting it concisely. I also believed that the main purpose of writing was to persuade or convince the reader to take a certain action or adopt a certain perspective.

However, through the course of this class, my understanding of the writing process and my theory of writing has evolved significantly. I have learned that writing is much more complex and nuanced than I initially believed and that there are many different factors that must be considered when composing a text.

One of the most significant contributions to my evolving theory of writing was the focus on rhetorical concepts and strategies. I learned about the importance of considering the rhetorical situation, including the audience, purpose, and genre of a text, as well as the role of the author and the use of tone and language. I also learned about the importance of considering the medium in which the text will be presented, and the importance of adopting a particular stance in relation to the topic being discussed.

In terms of my writing process, I have also noticed significant changes over the course of this class. Before taking this class, my writing process was linear and predictable. I would gather information, organize it in a logical manner, and then write a draft that followed a clear and logical structure. However, through the course of this class, I have learned about the importance of incorporating various writing strategies, such as brainstorming and peer review, into my process. I have also learned about the importance of revision and have developed a more iterative approach to writing that involves multiple drafts and revisions.

One of the major assignments that contributed to my understanding of writing was the analysis of two lab reports, in which I analyzed two lab reports and discussed their rhetorical elements. This assignment helped me to understand the importance of considering the rhetorical situation and the role of the author, as well as the use of tone and language, in the creation of a text. In my assignment I wrote, "Both lab reports included comprehensive methodology and provided results that corresponded with the purpose of the research and hypothesis. Neither of the lab reports had a discussion section, however, results were discussed in the conclusion for both of them along with future plans and limitations." I analyzed both lab reports' use of the eight elements and any differences or similarities. I also learned about the importance of adopting a particular stance and integrating sources into my writing in a way that supports my argument.

Another major assignment that contributed to my understanding of writing was the technical innovation paper, in which I had to locate and evaluate sources from the library's databases and on the Internet, and then use these sources to support my paper. This assignment helped me to

understand the importance of considering the credibility, accuracy, timeliness, and bias of sources, as well as the importance of properly citing sources in my writing.

In terms of how my theory of writing and writing process might be applied to other writing situations, both inside and outside the classroom, I believe that the skills and knowledge that I have gained through this class will be highly valuable in a variety of contexts. For example, my understanding of rhetorical concepts and strategies will be helpful in writing a variety of different genres, such as persuasive essays, research papers, and business reports. My ability to locate and evaluate sources from a variety of different sources, and to incorporate them into my writing in a way that supports my argument, will also be useful in a variety of professional settings, such as in the field of research or journalism.

Overall, I believe that the skills and knowledge that I have gained through this class will be highly valuable in my future academic and professional endeavors and will help me to become a more effective and persuasive writer.