

The Improvement of My Rhetorical Writing Skills

After writing three essays last semester, my perception of how to become a critical reader, writer, and thinker has significantly increased. My last semester Advanced Reading and Writing course essays topic were about justice in society. When I started writing essays, I even do not know how to start it because I never write it before, and the topic, which is social justice, was new to me. In the compare and contrast essay, which is required by the advanced reading and writing course, it required to find the similarity and difference between the two articles, which is kind of difficult regards to the different structures of two articles. As a good writer, the most challenging part for me is the format because I know literally nothing about APA form and the process of writing a good essay until I have taken the advanced reading and writing course. When the professor gives us the first assignment to write a reflective essay, I was very anxious about how to finish it and look up all the instructions carefully. After revising my first essay for three times, I finally have a feeling of how to write a good essay and the rule of the APA form. Despite the difficulties, the reason why I would choose social justice as my last semester topic is that it shows the different ways people been treated or even experienced discrimination or unfair event, and authors provide plausible solutions to solve the problems. After understanding the implementation of social justice in society, I'm quite interested in it and decided this as my topic in order to add an effort to address existing injustice.

Social justice is how human rights are applied in the everyday lives of people at every level of society, and many movements and activists are trying to achieve social justice by taking actions in society. The effect of injustice would be totally negative to people

who suffer from it; they will feel depressed, unconfident, and not willing to improve themselves and get out of this situation. In order to improve the overall society level, researchers investigate many samples and publish many articles to improve the situation. "It seems plausible, then, that some aggressive children may also develop a broad understanding of the moral nature of their life circumstances—an understanding that acts to promote and maintain their own aggressive patterns" (Arsenio & Gold ,2006, p. 398) highlight the circumstance of children's living environment and people they meet all play vital roles in children's moral judgments and behavior. "We believe that cooperating in the area of social media will advance our common publishing objectives, and are grateful to Peace Review for stimulating a much-needed conversation among progressive scholarly publications" (Shank, 2017) I found that the author holds positive opinion towards the development of society, and have the willingness to promote society full of justice. (Kaiyang, 2019, 10)

The most significant progress I made as a rhetorical writer while working on this assignment was about the improvement of critical thinking. At the beginning of the semester, I could only analyze the structure of the articles that I read about. After several times of training, I not only had the ability to analyze in the author's tone but also the deep meaning of the article and points that the author did great or still need improvement. For instance, "It seems plausible, then, that some aggressive children may also develop a broad understanding of the moral nature of their life circumstances—an understanding that acts to promote and maintain their own aggressive patterns" (Arsenio & Gold ,2006, p. 398) stressed children behavior would be significantly affected by many factors, such as people they communicate with daily, the education they received, and the family environment. After reading the quote sentences, I would

realize that social justice is affected by many controllable factors; such as parents, teachers, and governor; also I would get to know these essential factors better, and then add my personal opinion about the solution to problems that mention in other author's article. By analyzing the sentence, I could understand the further information that the author is trying to indicate and their personal feeling of their own opinion towards the topic.

Throwback to the period of writing essays, a question arises in my mind, which is what facts caused the inequality or injustice in society. This is very important because it is the topic I focus on for the last semester; also, it would develop my personal opinion about injustice in the world. After reading several articles, most of them focus on the economic facts that usually people ignore, such as class solidification, the different policy between countries, and people's personalities. Each person in society performance different ability of their jobs which cause differences in their incomes and class they are in. Instead of hard-working, some people would like to choose a stable job and stay in the middle class. Another example would be the economic situation in each country. In developed countries, governors and other departments distribute subsidies to needy citizens in order to achieve wealth redistribution. In contrast, developing countries do not have the ability to achieve that. Using critical thinking to understand articles is a perfect way to raise questions and provide solutions to problems. Also, this is a skill that many Chinese students do not have, which including me before I went to university. But I'm working on it and try to understand it during my time at Northeastern University fully.

To fully understand what the author wants to express, I would look at the author's article structure, tone, and his or her proposal first. Their opinion toward social justice would show their distinctive thoughts. For me, I usually looked into the rhetorical sentences they used because it highlights what they are intended to write, target reader, and the style is implemented. For

instance, Alexander et al. express the idea that "if social justice is achieved for one group, then it will create inequity for another; if equity is achieved, then it will create injustice" (2011, p. 875); in his body paragraph which is an important part of the rhetorical analysis. He correctly explains to the multilevel queueing system's definition, what impact does it has on the people who experienced it, and the possibility of the queueing system create by using the strategy of pathos, which is one of the rhetorical writing. The advantage of the writing style like that would persuade the reader or audience of the existence of multilevel queueing systems and the potential defect it might bring. Also, another right side of rhetorical writing is when I was describing an event or subject, I would mention describing the detail, feelings, or examples of things. As a result, the reader would have a better idea of the event or subject.

For me, a perfect writer, one of the essential things is to consider the group target readers. By choosing the appropriate words, articles would give many more impressions to readers. My target readers of essays I wrote last semester among social justice will be people who interested in solving social inequality. For instance, I would like to choose more academic words if I'm writing an essay or attending English exams. Academic words or more complicated words show my capability of handling professional English writing. To start a new essay, I would begin with a quote from an authority writer in order to increase the credibility of the article. Instead of using informal words like spoken conversations, slangs, and so one, I prefer formal words like longer sentences, avoids emotive punctuation, providing my point of view confidently and supporting evidence as a good writer. By putting my thesis in the last sentence in the first paragraph, readers will clearly know what my essays are going to discuss and have a 'big picture' in mind, which helps my development of the essay. In addition, my target reader would-be university students around my age who are also interested in the social justice field. The readers would understand

my personal opinion of social justice is indispensable for everyone who lives in the society, and they will enjoy the feeling of satisfaction and every citizen's equal rights when social justice is achieved. Everyone who is helping to deploy social justice should be honored, and all citizens should have equal rights under the protection of the law. (Kaiyang, 2019)

By developing my use of rhetorical analysis, my ability to read and understanding has significantly increased. The main idea of articles can be easily found, and I am conscious of the author's attitude towards events he or she discussed through the author's word choice. Besides, after analyzing topic sentences starting with each paragraph, I can understand the further information that authors are trying to indicate or if they hold bias. Critical thinking and rhetorical analysis skills are essential to English writing, and combining these two skills together will significantly improve my writing level, and make me much more professional than now. Last but not least, all the advantages that I have discussed above can be achieved only with a lot of practice, because everyone needs time to become professional, and success can not be achieved without taking action.

References

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