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Reflection Essay

I n WP#2 I struggled with trying to integrate the academic sources with my personal experiences. I wanted them to fit together seamlessly and not be all choppy so I took your advice of summarizing a part of the source that was relevant to my experience and then saying if it was different, or the same as something I had gone through. In doing so that allowed me to see how the academic source fit with my experience. As for WP#4 I mostly struggled with coming up with how I wanted to organize my website and based on that would I needed to decide if the audience that I was aiming for would change. This took me a few days to figure out after you gave us the assignment because I was thinking to myself I have never made a website before in my life, and I don’t know what the first step would be. After dwelling on the idea I finally realized that my audience would be aimed towards the father-daughter relationship and how important that is. This was fitting because that it what I wrote my paper about. My greatest strength in WP#2 was telling my personal experiences and really getting my point across about my belief. For the most part I did a good job of being descriptive to give the reader a sense of what I was going through. I thought this would be a big part of writing a good essay because I would need my personal experiences to find good academic sources. My greatest strength in WP#4 ended up being my audience aim after I figured out what I wanted it to be and how I was going to display that on my website. I believe I did a good job of making that very clear on my website by the way I organized it and what I put on there. I think I got better at organizing things and being very descriptive. In WP#2 I had a few areas that could have been organized better to help the flow of the paper. I also had places where I could have described more. In WP#4 I made changes in both of these areas because these are the things I struggled with the most in WP#2. By making these changes I feel that they have made my paper better than it was in WP#2. My understanding of the personal academic has changed in that I now know how important it is to understand who your audience is and how you are going to keep them interested in reading your paper. I have also learned that it is important to blend your academic sources with your personal experiences in a way that it is easy to read.

 My overall purpose of my essay was about my relationship with my dad and why that is so important to me. I also talked about my belief in why I have the relationship with my dad that I do. My intended audience is aimed at daughters and the importance of cherishing their fathers and trying to have the strongest possible relationship they can with them. Selecting a topic was a little hard for me because there were so many things that I could write about, but I eventually settled on writing about my relationship with my dad because I am so close to him now. This is important to me because my parents got divorced recently and my mom and I moved to Texas where my dad did not join us. Not being around him every day saddened me and gave me a desire to strengthen my relationship with him when I decided to come to Kansas. He now lives in Overland Park and I go visit him every other weekend which gives me a chance to strengthen the bond we had before my parents’ divorce. The comments that I received included not being descriptive enough in some areas of my essay and a few organization issues that I need to address. Another comment informed me of how well I described my personal experiences. I understand my strengths and weakness as being areas I excelled in with WP#2 in the former and areas that need improvement in the latter. For the most part there were not too many areas that I struggled in but I am committed to making those changes to improve my essay.

 In WP#4 my overall purpose stayed the same as in WP#2 because I did not need to change that part of my essay. My intended audience also stayed the same for the same reason that my overall purpose did not change and I showed that by not changing my audience aim. The major changes I have made to my personal academic essay include being more descriptive in certain areas and better organization to help the flow of the paper. I did not have to integrate my sources again in WP#4 because I kept them the same as in WP#2 because I felt that part of my essay was fine as it was. For some sentences that I was not as descriptive as I could have been I added more description. For example one of my sentences read: My dad and I would spend hours talking about stories in the bible and I would listen intently to learn new things. The new sentence now reads: My dad and I would spend hours talking about stories in the bible and I would listen intently to learn new things because at the time I was just a sponge absorbing everything I could. With these precious moments I knew I could come to my dad whenever I had a perplexing question or was just curious about something. The only thing I needed to change on my works cited page was to italicize something that needed it. This version should be considered a major revision because I made significant changes to WP#2 that included more description and better organization and by doing this I believe I have made WP#4 exceedingly better.

 The overall purpose of my website was the importance of the father-daughter relationship and how important my relationship is with my dad. My intended audience is fathers and daughters and the bond that they share and how important it is for them to cherish each other. I demonstrate that by putting pictures of me and my dad and talking about our relationship as well as a link to a website that discusses the importance of the father-daughter relationship. For my background and text choices I chose a lot of light colors that represented spring because it is spring time and I felt they best fit my purpose because I did not want the colors to be too girly. My pages include the different aspects of my relationship with my father and what an article says about the father-daughter relationship. This all fits in with my purpose and audience because my pages are about the father-daughter relationship. On my home page I put pictures of me and my dad when I was little, a picture of the word love that serves as the header picture to grab the attention of the person viewing the site. At the bottom of the page I include the intro paragraph to my paper because it gives the viewer of the website an idea of the purpose of the site. I also included a link to test your father-daughter relationship and a YouTube video of a father and daughter dancing at the daughter’s wedding. I added these because I wanted to have some interactive aspects to my website so it would not just be words.

 I tried to balance the personal and academic elements in a way that there was an even amount of both of them. So for every personal experience I told I wanted to relate that to one of my academic sources. I did not want too much or too little of either one for fear of being too vague in my description. In my revision of WP#2 I added more description in parts where I was not as clear as I could be. By doing that I helped the reader/audience better understand my personal experiences. I want my audience to feel that they can have a good relationship with their dads or that men can be good dads to their kids through tough situations. I want fathers to have that self confidence that they can do something in spite of rough times. I want my audience to know the importance of the father-daughter relationship and how sacred the bond between a father and a daughter is. The one thing I did to help myself succeed in making this website was asking you for advice on how I should organize my website and what I should put on it.