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My First Semester and FIQWS

As a freshman were you guys ever lost? I remember that the first day of class I was very lost. The campus was huge, and I didn't know anyone. Heading from one class to another was a pain, the classrooms aren't in one building they were in different buildings. I remember looking for the NAC building, and I remember looking from one building to another because I didn't know where NAC was. When I walked to FIQWS class I was shocked because everyone was already seated . I guess I was late by a few minutes. The class was very quiet, and the professor was talking. At the beginning I remember I was so confused and had no one to ask. What was Black Board or where should we post our homework's. I can tell that the whole class was shy, and we were too shy to speak up. Thinking about it now I felt like I have grown so much throughout the semester.

When it was time to post our Blackboard assignments we didn't know where we should be posting our homework's because we were too shy to ask, and we never spoke up for ourselves. I remember seeing people posting the work on the Q&A page, and I think I have posted my homework there too and realized that I have posted in the wrong place. There were many confusions we had, if it's not the Q&A page then where. When it was the next class, I

remember a girl sitting next to me asked if we were supposed to post it on the Q&A or discussions, and then that's the time I have realized that I have it posted on the wrong page. Now that we have been taking classes together for a semester already, we aren't scared to speak up anymore and now we know our classmates.

When professor Meg talked about the Aesthetic Essay, I was worried at that moment. I felt like we were going too fast, "an essay already?" she explained how the essay is just for them to see how well our academics are, and she also said it will not be counted. I asked a friend of mine from high school if her FIQWS class had an assessment to take, and she said no. I was hoping that she will say yes so that we can work on it together, but instead she said she doesn't. In class I was thankful that we worked in partners so that we can share ideas, and this is how I made a friend in class. I remember Paloma was the first friend I made in this class, and from that day on if it's either me or her that needed help, we would always text each other and see if we get the homework.

Dr. Robb's class was always fun, the first day of class we talked about different types of musicals we would listen to and known as when we were kids. When she asked what kind of musicals we like to listen or watch I couldn't think of any because I don't know what kind of musicals she was referring to. Everyone just started to raise their hands and after hearing about their musicals I was like "oh I know that musical from that movie too", lastly, I never raised my hand. I know I should've, but I couldn't think about anything. I was very excited to watch the movie *Mulan* because I've never watched the Disney version. I was shocked that the musical in the movie was actually telling us something, instead of them talking and acting out everything,

there were music playing and telling us the story. During that class I learned that through songs we can tell a background story, and every musical has its own story in the back that's hidden by the song. Which shocked me the most because I've never actually paid attention to any song and knowing that there's a story behind it. Everything we did in class all lead to our musical which is basically our project. We were divided into three groups; A Chorus Line, West Side Story, and Oklahoma.

Thinking more about musicals I have noticed that this English class and English classes I have taken before are different. In this class we focus more on the topic American musicals rather than other topics. I remember I had struggled a lot finding good articles that can relate to my musical *A Chorus line* and the year 1975. Looking through NYTS and Gales I have realized that there are many good articles I can use and maybe even for my other subject classes in the future. At the beginning I was thinking why we need to use One Search and find sources there, why can't we just use Google and Wikipedia. After knowing that there are many good things and databases that we can use it has been something very useful and time benefiting. There are times when I can't find articles on NYTS database on my year but there were many good sources on Gale. With not knowing that I could've found many good sources on Gale I wouldn't waste a lot of time on NYTS. Doing researches on A Chorus Line was fun and memorable because there were times I really liked it and enjoyed, there were also times where I felt like doing too much just for one musical.

When Dr Robb said we will have a group presentation about our musical, I was like "what?" I didn't expect to have group work in this class because in the beginning we were doing

everything by ourselves including researches. With unexpected group meeting I didn't go to our groups first meeting which is to talk about our thesis and how we are planning to divide our work. I was so worried and mad because no one told me that there were a group meeting and that no one had emailed me. Thank god that I had time to talk to them after the meeting and ask about what was going on when I wasn't there. If I knew that they were going to meet right before class starts I will definitely be there and talk about our thesis and our plan. Thinking about it now I am still mad because they never told me they were going to meet right before class starts, and everyone in the group knew expect me which got me very tight. But knowing that our group did good in our presentation I feel much better and knowing that I was included and not left out made me felt like all my hard work paid off.

My musical is *A Chorus Line*, and *A Chorus Line* is one of the most famous musical in the American history and had been played in Broadway. Today *A Chorus Line* can still be remembered as dancers wearing all gold and shiney looking identical such as looking all the same. They were dancers who eagerly wanted a job because during the 1970's. Due to many different reasons such as race in the 70's there were a high rate of unemployment and everyone wants to get this job. Zach will be the one who will be asking the dancers about their background and who they are as an individual. Depending on the people Zach choose, they will be the dancers playing in *A Chorus Line*.

I questioned myself sometimes, how are we going to use those sources that we found and annotated? Thinking about it now I should be proud of getting everything done and not last minute because I knew if I were going to procrastinate on this research depression will hit me

hard when it's time to write my essay. The sources that I found in the library really helped me a lot when it comes to writing my paper. There were many informations that can be proven with my sources that I have found and came to handy. Thinking about all the annotations that I have found made me feel very good because my time wasn't wasted for finding all these sources. Knowing that my time had been used wisely made me feel like

Overall thinking back makes me feel happy. From not knowing anything freshman to someone who knows a lot about her class and classmates. There are many improvements that have been made such as working in groups, making presentations, and researching on topics and lots more. This semester had been great, and due to our improvements it will always be remembered.