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EDUW 691
Professional Skills Development
Grammar & Writing Reflection Paper

In Section 1, Writing Exercises, my most common mistake was transitions in the sentences. I had a difficult time with the flow of the sentences because there are apparently some rules to sentence structure that I had forgotten. I learned a lot about these rules as I was reminded of them. I did quite well on Topic Sentences. In order to improve my writing, I will just continue to write more.

In Section 2, Sentence Style, my most common mistake was with choppy sentences. I had a difficult time with sentence fluidity. In fact, I think I've always have had problems with this. I learned a lot about staying away from certain sentence patterns that make it seem choppy. I did quite well with Parallelism. In order to improve my writing I will try to pay more attention to creating sentences that flow better and are not so choppy.

In Section 3, Word Choice, my most common mistake was with my sentences being too wordy. I had a difficult time at figuring out when a sentence had words that were irrelevant to the topic and/or didn't need to be in there. I learned a lot of simple rules to follow when deciding to add or omit words to a sentence. I did quite well in deciding whether language in a sentence was sexist. In order to improve my writing, I will continue to practice ways to make sentences not feel too wordy by using words that need to be in the sentence to get the content across that I want.

In Section 4, Grammatical Sentences, my most common mistake was with who and whom rules. I had a difficult time figuring out when to use which of these words and in which spot. In fact, I'm still not sure if I understand the rule. I learned a lot taking the quizzes and seeing where to correctly use these words in a sentence. I did quite well on Adjectives and Adverbs. I will continue to work on my understanding of the rules on when to use who and whom correctly in a sentence.

In Section 5, Punctuation, my most common mistake was when to use colon, semicolons and commas. They obviously separate different parts of the sentence but where to use which one. I had a difficult time in deciding where to place them and when I did decide, it was usually the wrong punctuation. I

did learn a lot in all of these quizzes on correct punctuation. It actually is the part of grammar rules that I understand. I did quite well on the misuses of the comma. I will continue to polish my skills correctly punctuating sentences by following the grammar rules that I understand.

After I graduated High School and going into college, I actually thought that I was an adequate writer. That was until I took my Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) at the end of my first year in college. I failed the writing portion of the exam not once but twice. It was then that I had to face the reality that I wasn't near the writer that I thought I was. At that point I took some time to go back and in essence re-learn some grammar rules and writing forms. I finally passed the writing section of the PPST and I felt comfortable with my writing. However, I did realize that it wasn't my strong point and became more conscience about improving my skills. Since then I have started writing daily journals and other writing exercises. Aside from being enjoyable, I feel those have helped. One thing that I noticed while taking the grammar quizzes in this class is that I often get overwhelmed and confused by grammar and punctuation rules. I think the way to approach it is to think of it as an ongoing thing. The more repetition a person does with anything, they tend to get better at it. Overall, I'm certain that I'm a better writer than I was 10 years ago and I think as long as I'm continuing to improve, then that's all that matters.