Professor Atwell,

My knowledge gained from this class is immeasurable. I have made amazing leaps as both a reader and a writer. The Forum Analysis forced me to think hard while reading different types of articles. It pushed me to dig deeper and actually think during reading. I found myself asking “Why is the article written this way” and “What is the point of the writer adding this?”. Tasked with dissecting the ‘Writers Rhetoric’, I had no idea how to begin this paper. I didn’t even know what this ‘Writers Rhetoric’ meant. With your help, I added a new tool, and word, to my skillset. The Literature Review allowed me to become familiar with the scholarly world of articles. I read and analyzed over 8 research papers and came to conclusions for all of them. I got the opportunity to expand on previous research to provide a glance into where to next, and how to accomplish this. The White Paper gave me a chance to examine a problem that affected me on a day to day basis. This paper forced me to reach out and conduct my own primary research, which I then was able to transform and provide solutions into these issues. To the common eye, only 3 major projects in the span of a 15-week period seems minimal, to say the least. However, WRTG 3035 showed me it is the quality of the projects, and the lessons/techniques learned, that matter most.

In this class, one of the goals was to gain the ability to “communicate effectively in a variety of genres for various audiences and purposes.” The first paper, Forum Analysis, helped me supplement this goal. This paper had me to find and analyze two different sources writing about the same subject. I compared and contrasted the Research Papers and WIRED.com, observing and noting major differences. These differences included identifying who the intended readers are, visual details of the actual paper, and the rhetoric of the individual writing the paper. Of course, this was reading, identifying, and analyzing other people’s writing. This alone does not accomplish the above stated goal, but it was an important aspect into preparing for this goal.

To achieve the goal of “communicate effectively in a variety of genres for various audiences and purposes”, I need to take a look at my portfolio in its entirety. I believe each paper I wrote was written with a specific audience. My Forum Analysis, for example, was written for the Technology Discourse. I made some assumptions in my paper than the individual reading it has some Computer Science background. I used keywords such as AV (autonomous vehicles) and AI (artificial intelligence). This paper is very interesting to me; however, it is understood that not every audience is interested in this subject. This is a reason I write specifically for members of the Technological Discourse. The Literature Review I wrote mentions many specific aspects of Computer Science; however, this is not who it was written for. This paper was written to alert the public, specifically the middle class, of the dangers they are facing in the future. I educated the public by providing examples of way the economy could fail due to the automation of middle-class jobs. It is no way intended to persuade opinions, it is purely a piece to educate and make aware of the situation ahead. My last piece, White Paper, is directed very locally. I wrote it on behalf of students like me, who are faced with problems within their department every day. This paper originally was directed at the University of Colorado, with our pleads to upgrade the Computer Science facilities.

This class equipped provided me with resources regarding how to direct and write different papers. I quickly learned the rhetoric and message are the most crucial aspects I can alter to change the style and intended audience of any piece. I believe my pieces in this portfolio achieve the goal: “communicate effectively in a variety of genres for various audiences and purposes”.

WRTG 3035 has also provided me with the skills to “incorporate knowledge and ideas in a coherent and meaningful manner”. All my projects in this class, I believe, were organized in a way to corral the reader how I wanted it to be read. Personally, when I see a long page of pure text (such as this letter, sorry about that…), I get bored before I even start reading. I subconsciously prepare for the paper to be a long and tough read. The paper could be about sports, and just the visual aspect of long white paper with black text alerts me that I am not going to enjoy reading it. ‘Don’t Judge a Book by its Cover’, I know, but that just my personal experience with long papers.

Anyway, my pieces were visually aesthetic. I incorporated images into all my papers, specifically the White Paper. I added many colored survey results, as well as pictures to provide the reader with some background. For example, I added a graphic detailing the layout of the Engineering Center, to help the reader visualize the topic. This class taught me the meaning and purpose of an abstract. Since we learned the use of them prior to the Literature Review, I used them in both Lit Review and White Paper. Abstract is such a crucial section in these types of papers, and I think the formality of an abstract is essential to scholarly papers. Lastly, I believe the way papers flow is important to their overall message. One of my main goals in this class was to improve the flow of ideas I had. I think I achieved this goal on my Literature Review and White Paper. I organized these papers in sections, with the section header very prominent. Any supporting paragraphs were indented to signal they were written to support this section header. I wanted each of these indented paragraphs to flow from one to another, and I think I achieved my goal.

Examples provided in class, student feedback, and your guidance helped me achieve my personal goal of neatly organized papers. My organization skills allowed me to write everything I had in mind, and in turn helped me “incorporate knowledge and ideas in a coherent and meaningful manner”.

I think my Literature Review was my best document. I thoroughly enjoyed the research required for this paper, and I think my paper reflects that. Although the effect of the topic is positive for me (hiring more CS students to build these job replacing robots), it was interesting to see the other side of the story, the middle-class jobs that *will* get replaced. As stated above, I tried to keep an interesting, well fluid paper this year. This paper, I believe, is the best at doing so. I included the perfect number of images and graphics, as well as made sure each paragraph is fluid to its previous to the next.

I chose to revise my Forum Analysis. Although not a bad piece, I think I rushed it a bit. One of my classmates’ critiques on my draft was that I was not actually analyzing the ‘*why’*. Meaning, I needed to dig into the writer’s rhetorical moves more deeply. As mentioned above, I was not entirely sure what this meant. I think I did a great job summarizing the articles, but I need to improve on *why* they were written the way they were. My revised Forum Analysis answers this question and allowed me to prove I gained the skills to analyze writer’s rhetoric.

My goals for this class were:

* Become a better writer, and actually enjoy doing so
* Become a better reader, and actually enjoy doing so
* Translate what I read into a good writing piece

Safe to say, I definitely accomplished most or all of these goals. I believe I developed many new skills as a writer, and I actually had a good time writing every single piece assigned. Thanks to the Forum Analysis and Literature Review, I was able to read a research paper or article and successfully apply what I read into thoughtful writing. The only goal on in the balance is the second. I believe I did become a better reader, thanks to the numerous assigned readings, as well as the readings I examined for my papers. But it’s the **enjoy** part of this goal that I failed. I simply do not enjoy reading, and there is not a Walter Ong, Penrose and Katz, or James Gee piece that can change my mind … or is there?

Thanks for a great semester,

Kevin Richard Ruby