

Farewell, and on to the New Matthew Yankowski

Submitted to Jane Frazier for THTR-110

Summary

My project/paper is about the growing I did during my theater class. It demonstrates the General Education goals I achieved as well as course specific goals I felt made me better. I came up with the answers like: during the solo performance, we had to document our work to demonstrate that it was our own. Also, we had to perform on multiple occasions using language not just actions. This was for the objective "communicate in written, oral and other modes as appropriate to a situation and audience." I did not overthink the question, I simply stated what I thought I achieved.

General Education Connections

Communicate ideas in written, oral, and other modes as appropriate to a situation and audience. | Employ various thinking strategies to develop well-reasoned judgements. | Evaluate sources of information for accuracy, relevance, and reliability. | Explore issues through creative, interdisciplinary, and innovative approaches.

The signature assignment helped me develop these skills by allowing me to practice my written ability through writing a paper. It also made me think in creative and innovative ways to answer the questions, because not everything was cut and dry. I had to really think about what I had done in the semester and then see what boxes it checked. Turns out I did more than I thought! I had to create new characters and bring life to other people's creations. I had to take notes from my professor about how to improve upon what I did myself. Moreover, I evaluated source materials for accuracy, relevancy, and reliability by knowing background information that was not in script. This helped bring truth to a performance. This helped bring a dependable approach to a performance. Also, I made well-reasoned judgements through my acting choices. I would play a role different ways getting the feel for it. Then, I had to pick something and stick to it. I learned many new things in this course that helped me grow as a person and as a global citizen.

Challenges

I faced writer's block, motivation issues, and anxiety while writing my signature assignment. While I did overcome all of these issues, I am most proud of the anxiety that I was able to table. For me, anxiety has been an issue since I was a teenager. It would always make me feel less than. Less than my classmates, less than my parent's expectations, less than what I was meant to be. Being able to climb out of the hole and finish the assignment on time (with a good grade too) forced me to acknowledge that my anxiety is really just noise. Sometimes I can cancel out the noise. I did not face any problems that I could not overcome because the one thing that always holds me back, I persevered through. While I do not really know what my future holds, I know that I'll be able to handle it if I just try.

Application

I think that my signature assignment connects to my major (Communications) through written/oral modes of communication, well-reasoned judgments, and creative approaches. Writing/talking are clear ways to communicate. However, I do think that those skills need to be reinforced in as many places as they apply. Theater is an excellent place for that. Well-reasoned judgments are how we choose to communicate with each other. Looking for the best outcome depends on making the right judgments. Creative approaches help engage an audience in what is being said. This allows communication to happen easily. Moreover, it connects to other courses and my life because I need to apply communication skills throughout my interactions with people. I'll use the process for which I made my signature assignment in my life by trying. If I can try and do my best, I know everything else will follow suit.