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In Depth Analysis of My Writing Process

I write differently than you do and the next person you see, and you do too. Especially me, so I want to find out what my writing is all about! In all honesty, I am just trying to figure out how I go about my writing. So to figure this out, I studied myself rewriting a previous draft. This study will help to clarify what my writing process is, and all the constraints within my writing process. To clarify, I am looking for my process through planning phase, editing phase, and revision phase. Also, I will include the findings of the study I have conducted. This will all be followed by a conclusion summarizing my findings.

**Methodology**

To begin, I recorded myself rewriting a draft for a paper that was done previously to this paper. I recorded my thought patterns and such on a fifteen minute scale over the time period seven to nine P.M on a Monday. After this initial session, I recorded myself for another session with five minute intervals to record more detail within the allotted time on a Wednesday with the same hours (seven to nine). The actual recording process involved a timer, and an open Microsoft Word document. Every fifteen and later five minutes, I would write down my thought patterns, and how the paper was coming out. The idea was to identify my writing process and my mental patterns over a revision of an assignment. The location of my writing was the UCF library. I was surrounded by silence, and books. To be stereotypical, I find if I surround myself in a more "boring" environment, I am more efficient. I would later find out if this was true or not by my findings.

The paper I was focusing on had a task of analyzing a text rhetorically as part of a hot debate in today's time. I decided to look at Obamacare, since this is a very hot topic as of this writing. I found two texts of Obamacare, each representing a different authors perspective. From here, I studied the two texts through Grant-Davies Rhetorical Situation critical lens. I had originally written the paper, but after getting feedback from the professor, I figured out it was not where it could be. With this in mind I decided to get my data for this paper by studying my revision in my last paper.

**Findings**

First I want to identify that I did manage come off subject and assignment a couple of times throughout the study, but I did not conclude these times with the total time it took to complete the revision. A majority of the times that I managed to come off subject, I overworked my mind and needed to give it a rest. The other times that I managed to get off subject were more or less distractions. Although these times are presented in the findings within the "Distractions", and are not included in the actual time it took to complete the revision. The time that was taken to revise the paper was one hundred and twenty minutes. Throughout the one hundred and twenty minutes, I was completely focused experiencing minimal distractions. Realistically there was minimal planning, I didn't have a "planning phase", more or less but I planned out the flow of the paper as I wrote. The corrections led to more ideas which I can consider planning, because I input those ideas into the actual draft. The actual writing manipulated the thinking of the next piece of the paper. The more I wrote down, the more ideas I got that I could implement into the paper. Thus making it easier to write more, and more. I can strongly say the presence of writing invokes more writing in my experience. With this idea in mind, I can almost say that I am immune to writers block most of the time. I never really have a phase that makes me think about what to write next. It all just seems to come out of me the more I progress through a draft.

My first major finding from the evidence was the process of revising the paper. About three quarters of the time spent in revising the paper was actual revision. The extent of revision included was just grammatical or contextual revision; there was no other type of revision present. I was always fixing something up since it was a revision. I was also always thinking of ways to illustrate ideas better or concepts better. So revising also took place, even though the paper was a revision to begin with. By revising I mean the reprocessing of higher order concerns, and grammatical correction. Revision of grammatical errors was about a quarter of the entire revision process. There was a major change from a keyword, to another keyword with the same meaning, only it was more formal. The other two quarters of revision were mainly contextual changes. I managed to change plenty of content to better demonstrate what I was trying to accomplish. Even though my objective was to revise the paper, it is still very informative to know how much of the actual time correcting a paper was actual correction.

The next finding was the presence of overworking my mind. Throughout the revision I experienced losses of interest whenever I spent over twenty minutes at a time working on the paper. This shows that overworking of the mind can indeed make you lose focus on the current objective at hand. This can show that long session of any type of work can not benefit a person.

The next major finding I found was the distractions. Although there was not many, I found myself checking my phone twice throughout the study, from a lack of focus. From the evidence, I can say a distraction only affected my writing process once, out of the whole ninety minutes. I noticed the longer I wrote and spent on the assignment, the harder it was to stay fully focused. This can correlate to the last finding. It seems that the shorter the span of the work, the more efficient I can probably be. I can conclude that there is a strong correlation in distractions and time spent doing work.

I also experienced a slight bit of pauses every few seconds to think. This was the only pause I really experienced, any other can be considered more of a distraction than a pause. By saying that this was the only pause I experienced I mean that I can only classify my stops in writing as thought processes. Whenever I was not writing, I was thinking of the next step, or thinking of another revision. I can't really consider this writer’s block, since I was just thinking about how to improve something within ten seconds at the most. I seem to be fairly efficient in my assignments. It would be really good to know that I also wrote this paper in the best writing moods possible in my days. Even if I didn't have a great one, I would do a little bit every day. That would help get the overall goal completed.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the study I proceeded to do on myself helped me understand quite a bit of my writing process. I didn't allow myself to write if I wasn't in a good mood, and I feel like when I did write, I did so more efficiently than usual. I also found that spacing my work out over time is a tremendous help in the focus and precision of work. I found that the less time I was working on an assignment, the faster I could get it done. The next finding was the overworking of my mind. In a perfect world, work with more than a few breaks would make everything run smoother. The longer the session, the more focus was lost in my experience. To combat this in the future, I would like to take more breaks in my writing sessions or study sessions. With this in mind, I can give myself time to relax and not feel like I am cheating myself of study time. This would lead to more efficient study habits and work habits. This supports my finding of spacing my work out for efficiency. But with that also came the precision of the work, which was always excellent and not weak. Furthermore I have discovered that even though I don't experience many distractions, the distractions that are experienced cost me a lot of time. To avoid these distractions would be ideal and to do this I just need to separate myself from the source of the distractions, which would be my iPhone. All in all, my writing process seems to be fairly efficient. I have always had confidence in my writing, and I feel that this is evidence to show a strength that I can claim. This strength is revision, and without revision I can surely say there is no completed draft. A writer always needs to revise his work, since revising is a strength of mine, I can conclude that some if not most of my writing is fairly decent. I can conclude that different processes of revision, and how we make these revisions differentiates us all in our writing.