E: Engagement [6]

RPPF- Student advice

Do the following:

* Be concise (500 words total-avg 120 – 175 per reflection)
* Be analytical and evaluative about the decisions you made
* Share any flaws, challenges, etc. and why. What are you doing/going to do about it?

Avoid the following:

* Adjectives overage
* Superfluous phrases
* Reliance on summarizing or general observations
* Sounding like you have it all together at all times

**3 Clearly some personal engagement with the topic area and some insights into the decision making process. However, these do not move beyond general observations about decisions made and the impact of these on the research.**

Throughout my research, I feel I have sufficiently researched to come, informally, to my research question. Being a goalie, I’ve always wondered how a player’s curve has affected their shots on me, as being able to read where the shot will go is a necessity for every goalie. So, in order to begin my research, I looked at different stick blades, and the legal limits the NHL allows for their blades, so I know a range for where I can collect suffice data from. I feel that physics applies well to this, as the motion of the puck is determined by the forces applied on the puck, and the points where energy is transferred. Moving forwards, I plan to focus more on learning the subject material necessary to understanding the physics of my question, and also creating an experiment that is applicable, and not overly complicated. (146)

My initial ideas for my EE have dramatically changed from when I came into the first meeting with my supervisor. I ended up with comparing the book that I wanted to do my research on with a translated work to make my question original. This led me to investigate this second book in a short period of time and construct, with the help of my supervisor, an intriguing and structured question. Even though my initial topic has changed my interest has been constantly there. I plan to research critiques on my two novels on scholarly journals and articles to contribute to the literary discourse these books already have sparked. In addition, furthering my understanding on the translated piece is something that will only benefit me during this process. Finally, finding literary conventions will be another task for me. (138)

Going into my research, my original focus had been looking at characterization of Christopher because of his unique narrative with his mental illness and how this related back to his relationship with those around him. Several issues arose where focusing too much on these relationship and characterization excluded a big part of the novel because the whole plot follows this investigation with the dog's death, not just Christopher's life. After my supervisor and I met, we discussed expanding the focus of the novel to not look at such a small portion of what it is about. This expanded to bringing in another novel, The Sherlock Holmes the Hounds of Baskerville, because of references in my original book, as well as obvious similarities to both being logical detective mystery novels. Looking at this comparison between the two will be able to go more in depth with information with the logic and mystery aspects as well as the characters and not just focusing on one. (163)

So far, I have obtained a basic understanding of calculus and its concepts, such as limits, rates, tangents, chords, and areas by reading chapter 16 of the IB Math SL Textbook. The most essential learner profile trait that I have made use of so far is being an inquirer, as I had to be curious enough in order to learn the basics of calculus in the first place. Interestingly, open-minded was originally my weakest learner profile trait, but it has now become one of my strongest, as I had to be open-minded in order to absorb the required knowledge for this endeavor.

What I need to do from now on is to read and learn about the Method of First Principles and calculus derivatives in general, which I will do so by consulting the IB Math SL Textbook. After that, I will look into Newton's Principia and try to find some proofs that I can analyze and compare with Leibniz's methods of calculation. (163)

Coming up with an idea for my EE was simple, I was very interested in magnetism and I wanted to figure out how eddy currents work. However, it was challenging for me to come up with a research question, as there were several factors that I could manipulate in order to investigate eddy currents. After much discussion, my advisor and I decided to narrow down the RQ to two factors. My research so far has been on Faraday’s law and magnetic flux. I will continue it by looking at other experiments and laws related to eddy currents, so that I may be able to draw comparisons in the future with my own experiment. (113)

In my meeting, I've realized that I need to talk to a professor about cosmic rays. The papers and books that I have found are difficult to read, and someone to walk me through the language would be appreciated. I started this topic because of a physics camp I went to during the summer, and I will try to contact the people there to see if I could gain access to research in the program. I know the basic science behind cosmic rays, but I know that I need to learn more about the actual math. Originally I thought that I could learn the material myself. However, now I know that the language used in the papers is difficult and that I lack a lot of the math skills required. I might take a course in a local university to help me, if time prevails. (145)

Parce que j’ai une relation culturelle avec la vie africaine, je m’intéresse à la négritude, qui est un mouvement littéraire en France pendant le vingtième siècle. Dès le départ, j’ai voulu écrire mon mémoire sur un sujet qui est relié de ce mouvement, et pendant le premier rendez-vous, mon superviseur m’a encouragée à lire Une Vie de Boy, un livre qui explique l’hypocrisie de l’assimilation française au Cameroun. Pour mon deuxième rendez-vous du mémoire, j’ai fini mon livre et j’ai développé une question, mais j’ai un peu de difficulté avec l’organisation du papier. Je sais que j’ai besoin de sous-titres pour créer un brouillon, mais je ne suis pas certaine si je veux utiliser les sujets dans ma question tels que la discrimination, l’hypocrisie, et l’oppression ou si je veux baser l’organisation sur quelque chose d’autre comme les personnages ou l’événements. Mon superviseur suggère que j’organise des notes et fasse des recherches sur mon livre et sur les directives du mémoire français pour comprendre mieux ce que je dois faire. (170)

In this meeting, my supervisor and I went over the question I had proposed and tweaked it a little bit. My original question was “How did the Mexican Civil War affect the United States economy?” I had discovered that the research on my topic was limited because the connection within the question was weak and I brought this issue up to my supervisor. Together we created a stronger question by changing the Mexican Civil War to the Mexican-American war. This change allows for greater connections in the essay to be made and I believe it will also be easier to organize my paper. One of the aspects I need to keep in my mind is the argumentative aspect of my history essay because creating an argument leads to a stronger paper. My supervisor told me about some good places to look for additional, strong sources such as Google Scholar and Questia School. For the next time, I plan to find more sources so I can evaluate their strength and run them by my supervisor. (174)

I came to my EE meeting prepared with preliminary research from Wikipedia, the Marius reading, and the sample EEs. I originally thought that I would see why the term "muckrakers" had a bad connotation. I was going to investigate the beginning of the term's usage and how Muckrakers could have been ingenious. I soon found out, though, that the question was too specific, not grounded enough, and it would be hard to find sources. Consequently, my adviser and I revised the question. I am now going to investigate the accuracy of the muckrakers finding and see to what extent they used exaggeration. Going forward, I plan to read primary sources from muckrakers and secondary sources from historians that reveal their views on them. I also might have to extend my preliminary research to find out the factual premises of the muckrakers' topics they discuss in their pieces. I will have to make a schedule that will allow me to finish all the planned research in time. (166)