Examples of Student Responses

*End-of-Semester Journal Assignment*

**Writing Prompt:**

**Net Effect of the Course**

Think deeply for a few minutes about what you've learned on this course. What attitudes have you changed? What new things did you realize about yourself? About studying? About being in the US? What information, techniques, strategies, or skills from this course will be important for your future?

Now write about the differences this course has made. As a result of this course, what will you do differently? What information, ideas, strategies, techniques, or skills will be most useful to you in the future? What topics from this class do you think you still need further work on?

*No editing has been done. These are all S responses received (9 out of 10)*

**Changes**

**XB:** Chinese ♂

2nd sem in IEP

In fact, I can’t really find where I changed, so I tried to ask my friends and my parents. However, they said I changed a lot. Whatever in study, lifestyle and habits, I all changed.

First, I think I changed my study style. When I was in high school, I never worked at night. I always finished my homework at school, and I never checked my mistake. I think if I can finish the homework, then it will be fine. Right now, I start to work the whole night and check every mistake. If I find something wrong, I will ask native speakers to help me, or teach me. I can’t believe that was me. At final week, I think I start to work harder than anytime because I want to pass the ESL classes. It is not hard for me, but I want the grades to be high.

Second, my lifestyle, like my parents said, they think I am still kid, but when I am skyping with them, they said I became an adult, I start to know what my responsible is. They felt really happy about that. However, I really didn’t realize about that, I think I didn’t change my lifestyle at all, but they said, I can’t find because I changed every day. I hope I can be an adult and know the duty. I want to help my parents share their duty because my parents have too much stress.

The last one, habits, I have to say, habits are only thing I realized. When I was in China, I never washed my clothes by myself, but when I go here, I started to wash my clothes and shoes by myself. Also, in China, I never help other people open the door, but in American, I start to learn open door for other one.

I think when I came here, I learned a lot from the daily life and class. If I try to list them, I think I will write for 3 days. I love American because it makes me grow up. Thank you, USA!
Net Effects of the Course

In this course, I learn many things to improve my study. When I came to the U.S., came to the UWEC, I didn’t manage my time. Sometimes, I ran out of my time. I just wrote down my notes sequentially. I read most of articles only one time; just try to memory the main ideas in the articles. I didn’t set any goals. I didn’t what is my intelligent style. I didn’t know how to prepare for academic courses. After this course, I managed my time with 5 steps (Get organization, stay on the target, set priorities, grab stolen moment, think ahead). I take notes with one method, like block system or Cornell Note-Taking, and I organized my notes, divide them to different parts. And I use mind map to help me study. I read articles not just one time, skim it first time, then find questions, answer them and summary the articles. Now, I know I am auditory, interpersonal learner; this will help to study more effectively, like remember words with instructor’s voice. I learn many information from academic courses, and learn the strategies to do it well.

I think the time management, reading skills, note-taking skills, learning style are important for my future. I will be an academic student in UWEC. Even I will start my career’s life, these strategies still help me a lot because I still need to learn new things. Also, I will continue to work on them. I think scientific learning skills always make study more effective, more creative. I hope I will get benefits from these strategies.

Net Effect of the Course

The main reason that I applied for this class was to get confidence about speaking English; actually, I thought I can meet many students who speak English as poor as me, so that I can practice English with them, and this can improve our English skills together. However, when I arrived at the class first time, I was shocked because it looked like that I was the only person who speaks English poorly. So I was depressed for several classes. Moreover, I was a shy guy, so I didn’t say opinions or answers to the class. However, after some time, I found that most of the students in the class make mistakes, and they don’t look like depressed by that mistakes. Thus I could get confidence little by little. For now, I can say that I am better than I who was in the class at the beginning of the semester. I get confidence to speak English, and rarely feel afraid of speaking incorrectly; I can speak again if I spoke wrong.

Moreover, while in the class time, I noticed that this class is focusing on the way how to learn things include English; there were many skills like time management, note taking, goal setting, and reading skills, and those were helpful. However, especially skills like Note-taking skills and setting strategies helped me a lot to study other subjects; for example, with Cornell Note-Taking Method, I could set main points of each class on the Note when I review this, and by setting strategies based on grading systems about classes, my grades have been getting better.

So I am appreciating for teaching me those skills. I think I will use those skills even I become old man in the future. It helped me to know about writing good summaries and setting priorities before do something. Thank you professor, even I staying here for just one semester, I think I learned much from USA.
May 9, 2013

Once I knew that ESL 391.002 is a new class which invented by the foreign languages department and executed for the first time, I was little bit panicked because during my previous bachelor’s degree studies I was one of the first batch who was studying new and first subjects at the university, so I know the impact on the students as well as the professor to perform for the first time. But a few weeks later of the course, I sort of relaxed because I got to know the objectives of this course and how it is going to benefit me in building my skills and reaching my goals for the semester. I learned a lot about myself through the different personality tests that have been taken in the course and this helped me to know my strengths and weaknesses in order to develop the strengths and overcome the weaknesses. Also, during the course I learned several techniques of note-taking skills and figured out which one is useful for what and work on them until I make sure that I can use them easily and smoothly. The time management was an issue for me at the beginning of the semester, but after taking the idea of SMART goals I was able to manage my time and keep tracking everything around me and finding a time for everything academically and socially. In the near future, I will put in my consideration to work more on these methods and especially getting to use the dictionary more frequently which is I did not use to have it before this course as reference needed in my studies. It is a new course but very helpful in making us as students aware of what we have of skills and develop them well for our academic future levels.

Net Effect of the Course

I learned from this class how to deal with different people and mainly in-group. For example, in our group it was hard at the beginning to deal with each other but we ended up really well and we found out consensus at least in my perspective. I realized some new things about my personality from the tests that we have done. These test have explained for me some abilities that I haven’t recognized before. I figured out that I am visual student, so I will focus in the future in visual aids to facilitate my learning process. Furthermore, I will need in my next years in my academic degree to use note taking. The topic that I will still think about it further could be my own abilities that I have learned them from the tests about our personality because it is important to learn with an easiest way, but also I could evolve my skills.

Net Effect of the Course

The name of this class is Learning to learn, and I think this class teaches us what’s the correct way for studying. The difference this class has made is this class teaches us many different learning strategies; it can help us learn other classes well. For example, I knew I should take notes in the class, and I knew I should write down much information that professor said, but I didn’t know how to take notes correctly before. I just wrote down all information everywhere on one paper, that was different for me to review those information. Now I know I should write down the information like a list, leave extra space between two points, and I should write short phrases or key words instead of complete sentences. The reading strategy is also useful for me. I always read articles slowly, and when I saw a new vocabulary, I would look up the vocabulary immediately, so one of my goals is improve reading skill. I am using a strategy named SQ3R, I skim the article first to know the main idea, then I will read again and review. It really helpful because I achieve my goal now. I have took two online tests to know what kind of person I am. It is interesting because I
know more about myself. I am a visual, naturalistic, and intrapersonal person, and I am ISTJ. I think I still need to work on group work. I didn't make any trouble in my group, but that's not enough. I also need to help my group members when they have some problems and work with them. I hope I can be a good group member in the future.

**Net Effect of the Course**

In this class, I know more about myself. I lost confidence for long time because I knew I lack of some intelligences such as interpersonal intelligence which is very important to live in society. Moreover, when I try to change myself, I realize it's very difficult so I believed that it was impossible to improve those intelligences and I lost confidence. However, I learn more about myself in this class. I can improve my intelligences even though I can’t change my characters. I try to be myself instead of become others. I start to think about what kind of things that I really want to do and it will be suitable for me. My parents try to help me to plan my future because I didn’t know what I can do so they let me learn economy. I don’t like it and think it’s not suitable for me. However, I accepted this decision because I don’t believe my advantages can help me have a good life in future. After this class, I know that my characters also have advantages which are very helpful for me to improve my intelligence. For example, one of my characters is introversion, I am not good at communicating with others so I lack of interpersonal intelligence. On the other hand, this character let me like to think to make things clear and logical. Therefore, I have a good Logical-Mathematical intelligence and a good Intrapersonal intelligence. In this class, I realize that I can improve intelligences which I lack even though my characters will make it becomes difficult. Therefore, I change my goal to choose mathematic as my major because I like it and I believe that I can improve myself and do what I really want to do at the same time.

**Learn from 391 class**

In this class, the most important thing I learnt is how to organize my notes. For last semester, I spent lots of time to take notes in the class and I always forgot what professor
said when I take notes, so it is necessary for me to learn how to take good notes in a short time. In this semester, I learnt how to take note with some special strategies to help me take notes, like make notes as 4 parts to organize which is the one I most like. All in all, I think this class is helpful for me, and help me to face more tightly class in next semester.

\textbf{Learning to Learn}

Although I ever worked with Quality Control (ISO family, PDCA, etc.) before, I never had specific ways to learn. After I started this class, I fully changed the vision that I had about the learning because I thought the learning does not needed a method. Now, everything that I may learn I try to do it in a systematical way. When I study, I basically have tried to make notes, to put tasks and activities on my new schedules, and to be organized. Being in the US has been a great experience for me. I have learned from American culture that being on time and work hard is quite important. Beyond I almost never arrive late, being on time still is hard thing for me because this question is very flexible in my home country.

According to everything that I have been learning this course, I will try to be more organized with my personal things and schedules. I still need to work on mainly in my personal things. For to do that, I will keep applying the 5 Ss in my life. For to be more organized with my schedules, I will keep using the toggl software to improve my time management.

\textbf{Course Reflection}

The ESL 291 is coming an end, and I have learned different skills with this course. My attitudes has been changing and I want to emphasize the improvement of my attitudes in group work, such as: listen more another members. I have learned how to make schedule in my routine and keep my ring binder organized.

Furthermore, I learned how to understand myself when I was doing my reflective journal and I improved my writing with this journal. I got some strategies how to understand American articles, such as: SQ3R (Survey, Question, Read, Recite and Review). This course taught me the phases of culture shock and it helped me how to deal with this problem here in the United States. Although I have learned different strategies and skills in this class, how to manage my time is still hard for me.

As a result of this course, I will do differently my organization with my ring binder. I will start my major next semester and I am going to buy a ring binder and keep it organized as I have learned in this class. For me, the most useful strategies that I will use in the future is to work in group, and use the different hats. I still have difficulty with how to manage my time and I still need work on for improve this strategy.

\textbf{Net Effect of the Course}

Making a deeply reflection about my first semester here in US and in special studying in this class 291, I can see that I changed my conceptions, both at in quality how in intensity. However, it is not enough say that I changed my mind about something, it is very abstract and for this reason I will describe my personal changes.

The first point that I could improve living here in an America was the way how I relate with the other people. Before to come here I thought that was very important have a relation of friendship to make a good work and have a great times with other people, but now a I can see that I just need to be professional, because, in this way I can be polite and respect the individuality of these people. This new perspective that I could learned living here also was
enhanced in my class 291, when I needed to work in group with my classmates. This work with my classmates was really difficult for me, because, some members of my group had not the same responsibly that I had. But I think that this was important too, since I could practice my skill to manage and negotiate in my group meetings.

Other point that this class helped me was how to analyze the works and how I would optimize these. After watch and discuss in class the video about “The 6 Hats” I could do my works more efficiently and save time. This was amazing for me, because, in my major save time mean produce more and save money. In this, way I am sure that I will continue using the strategies of The Hats in my professional and social life.

IdAE:

Brazilian ♂
1st sem in IEP

Net effect of the Course

I started to study at the University in my country three years ago. When I arrived in the USA, I saw that the style of learning and teaching was different between Brazil and USA, and this has been hard for me. I changed my way of studying and now I feel more interactive and communicative in class. I think that I’m learning faster than I have in the past. In Brazil, sometimes I needed to study a lot of things in just one day, but I didn’t have enough time to interpret what I had studied. In the USA, I have a better chance of learning when I study, because I have homework to do outside of class. With this, I can learn on my own and from my mistakes.

I have been in the USA almost four months and didn’t have an issue with adapting, I think this is because my lifestyle in the USA is approximately the same as in Brazil, despite the differences between the Universities. My only issue here is with the food, I am adapting to the food now, and hopefully I will try new cuisines.

ESL 291 has helped me develop my study skills. Today, I am more organized with my study schedule and keep improving each day. I will still be using the strategies that I learned in class. I learned new strategies for working better in groups, and using the "six hats"; these will help me a lot in future meetings, such as research group meetings in my area of study (physics). I still need to improve the organization of my study materials in and around my desk, and be better organized with my three-ring binder. Knowing and using these strategies, I have no doubt that I will be a better student.

MCCG:

Brazilian ♀
1st sem in IEP

Benefits of this class

At the beginning of this course, I did not know about the different cultures. I knew how to work in group, but just if my partners were Brazilians. However, I had this experience here, working in my final project. I could not imagine that it will be so different like it was. People from different countries have different ideas, different ways to work. I had to deal with people disagreeing of my ideas; People with ideas completely different than mine. Summarizing, I had to learn how work in a group again. For this reason, I can say that I have learned about the Chinese culture, Saudi Arabia culture and Korea culture more than I knew at the beginning, but I need to improve in how to work in group, I need to discover how to make a work in group organized.

Another thing was my organization, I learned to be more organized, and things that I thought that was not important turned important for me, such as keep my ring binder organized, do a brainstorming, draw my ideas first, and another rules and steps to keep a work organized were useful.
In conclusion, this course was important for me to deal with my cultural shock, I learned about the steps of culture shock and I recognized that everything that was happening with me is normal and I prevented bad situations. Knowing about that, I tried to make new friends, I tried to get out more, I tried to sleep less that I wanted, and keep me busy and happy.

**HW:**

Chinese
♂
1st sem
in IEP

**Net Effect of the Course**

ESL-291-001 is a very useful class for me, I have learned many things from this class. Before I came here I never use ring binder, but now I know how to use a ring binder and I realized how important it is. Have an organized ring binder is a really good way to study.

Another thing I have learned is working in group. When I was in China I didn’t think group working is necessary and useful. After I came here almost every professor let us working in group. In the beginning, it’s really hard for me. I don’t know how to accept other people’s ideas; I always think my idea is the best. After this class I realized that I was wrong, I start think about other people’s idea and start accept those ideas. Now I’m enjoying working in group, it’s help me a lot. I can learn different think ways from my teammates. So the most useful skill to me in the future is how to work in group. In my opining, everyone need working in group and you’d better know how to work in a group.

Time management is the hardest topic for me, I think I still need work on that. I really want to manage my time perfectly, but it’s very hard for me. I think I should learn from someone who have a good time management skill such as [our mentor]. Anyway I like this class very much, I think we should take this class before we start major class.