

Chelsi Arias

Professor Lux

English 364

30 January 2023

Assignments due for this session

Assigned Written Responses (1 ½ typed pages per article or chapter response):

Read and write a responsive letter to me or to your classmates about each of the following articles (one per article), doing the three stages of a) prewriting reflections, b) critical response to the reading, c) postwriting reflections:

Wardle and Downs Dropbox

a) Prewriting Reflections: what you think about the topic even before you read and/or what you expect to find in the article; b) Critical Response: what you think the author said (main point), what you agree with in the article, what you have mixed thoughts about in the article, and what you disagree with in the article; c) Postwriting Reflections: what you think you have gained from reading the article and/or how valuable the author's contribution to you is.

Article to read and respond to (available through our Nyack College databases):

Fulwiler, Toby. "Looking and Listening for My Voice." *College Composition and Communication*. 41.2 (May, 1990): 214-220. JSTOR. Web. 3 Sept. 2011.

Dear Professor Lux,

Just from reading the title of the article “Looking and Listening for My Voice” it is clear to me that the article will teach the reader about what it means to have a voice as well as how to achieve that goal. Before reading the article, I would like to make the assumption that the article is not only for those who feel like their stuck when it comes to writing, but also for those like me who might not have even thought about the fact that one could have a voice through their writing and the importance of that. For the latter, the article might help present new scenarios and questions for the reader and even the answers to those questions so although the target audience for the article might be for writers, it can be useful to others in learning something new.

The author’s main point is that writers can show their voice in their writing through their writing: “style, structure, topic, attitude...” (Fulwiler, 214). In the article, Fulwiler himself seems to be discovering his own “voice” and walks us through it which in turn is helpful in helping the reader through the process of discovering their own voice. While reading the article I felt as though I was in Fulwiler’s mind processing the concept of “voice” in writing. Before even reading this article, when the topic of “voice” was presented I thought about how our voice meant our writing being unique since everyone has different experiences and different things to tell so I thought maybe I wouldn’t necessarily be learning something new about voice but Fulwiler’s comparison of his public and private voice really surprised me. I obviously know that I write differently when it comes to school purposes compared to my private writing, but I hadn’t thought about it the way Fulwiler described it. He mentioned how our public voice is something we carefully plan out on what we want others to think and how our private voice is more alike others which means our public voice is different compared to other writers. I also enjoyed the realization he had regarding his public voice, drawing a comparison between his current self and

his 18-year-old self and how he chooses to write the way he does now in a way that his 18-year-old self would understand since he recalls being in a completely different place in every way. He states “If I can make my current voice clear to that earlier self I generally figure I can communicate with anybody.” (Fulwiler, 218) I liked this analogy he made because one could say his 18-year-old self represents the reader who in this case doesn’t know about discourse community nor about our voice in writing, so he wrote this article for those who like his younger self have trouble understanding. In other words, he is able to help the educated who are a part of his current discourse community as well as the ones in his younger self’s discourse community as long as the topic is writing.

After reading this article I think I have gained a different perspective on writing. Things like how our writing can drastically change because we are always changing and how we are able to offer a distinct voice even if it is on the same topic. I also learned about discourse communities and think it’s interesting how there can be tons of writings on the same topic but how none will be the same because each author has their own voice. I enjoyed reading the article because it made me see writing differently.

Sincerely,

Chelsi Arias