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Research Essay

FYEX

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Developing my Knowledge of Research

Research is defined differently but everyone. Some people may see it as a systematic way to investigate facts and draw conclusions, or in other words finding answers to questions that need to be answered. Others may see it as boring information the scientists try to find. I see research as the way to study unknown ideas and express my findings so I can explain them to anyone and everyone. Research is finding answers to unanswered questions, and it is also finding a deeper understanding of many different concepts for the benefit of everyone. Thought this unit I was able to establish a better and clearer understanding of what research means to me and how it will benefit me as a student at Minnesota State, Mankato. By discussing different concepts of research in class and understanding my stance on information literacy and information synthesis, I was able to develop my knowledge of research.

My stance on what information literacy and information synthesis was minimal when starting this unit. I didn’t know what either of the concepts meant. Until I read the Research section in the Honors Student Handbook I didn’t realize I have been doing both of those concepts throughout my middle school and high school career; I just didn’t know what I was doing had a name. According to the Honors Student Handbook, information literacy for a first-year student is “the ability to access information effectively, efficiently, and critically,” as well as the ability “to evaluate and incorporate selected information into knowledge base” (p. 21). As for information synthesis the handbook defines it as the “ability to organize others’ ideas” for first-year students (p.21). The discussions in class helped me learn that I have been doing both of these concepts for a few years, but now I have learned the process of how to do both of them properly and affectively. When I was doing both of the processes before they were both unorganized and incorrect. Now I have the knowledge to develop my understanding and apply them both to my research and work toward my future research goals as a sophomore and later a junior.

By discussing the importance of research ethics in class I have begun to understand how ethics effect research projects. The same goes for interviews and stories for my major. Questions and information gathering must be ethical otherwise the information will be dismissed and the research will have been done for nothing. It is important in research to have ethics because if everyone and everything isn’t treated with the same amount of dignity and respect the person doing the research is violating the person’s or living thing’s rights (Yardley, p. 2). Ethics in research has also helped me learn about ethics I need to apply to my own major. In Mass Media we have the main ethic called the Golden Rule. Most people learn what the Golden Rule is when they are children. It is that one should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself. The other ethical virtue journalist follow in the Golden Mean. The Golden Mean is finding the middle path between two extremes. I believe the use of both the ethics I learned in class and ethics I learned from my major I will be able to apply them both to my Honors research because I want to do research through my major. If I follow both the ethics from our research ethics discussion and the ethics discussion from my Mass Media class I will be able to meet the correct criteria for my Honors research competency. By understanding research ethics I have been able to learn how ethics will affect and help me plan for research project.

Another concept I found to be interesting to connect to research was the concept of innovation. Tony Wagner says in his book, *Creating Innovators: The Making of Young People Who Will Change the World,* “that there are essentially two very different kinds of innovation” (p. 9). First, there is incremental innovation which Wagner states “is about significantly improving existing products, processes, or services” (p. 9-10). The type of innovation I am familiar with is the type of innovation Wagner calls disruptive or transformative innovation. He defines it as “creating a new or fundamentally different product or service that disrupts existing markets and displaces formerly dominant technologies” (p. 10). I believe that innovation is a must when conducting research because without a sense of originality what good is the research for. If the research has already been conducted shouldn’t a researcher move on to a new idea? If there is not originality in the research question research isn’t going far enough to answer questions that need to be understood. With the development of how innovation effects my research I am be able to understand why original questions need to be answered for my research project. As my ideas of innovation develop through my years at Minnesota State, Mankato I will further develop what I believe is necessary to do good and beneficial research.

All of these concepts have benefitted my understanding and knowledge of research. Through it either being how to conduct research ethically and effectively or what I should even do my research over. By discussing different concepts of research in class and understanding my stance on information literacy and information synthesis, I was able to develop my knowledge of research. In my early years her at Minnesota State, Mankato I will be able to develop my skills and knowledge of research and in my later years I will hopefully be able to apply them to my research project. I plan on using and discussing my research skills to help myself further my research competency level. My research competency may take some time to fully complete and understand, but I know that I need to master the research competency so it can help me become the well-rounded human being I am capable of becoming.

Works Cited

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