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### Final Exam

A famous Native American author named Zitkala-Sa once stated, "Language is like a suit of clothes; it can be tailored to suit one's purposes." Throughout this semester my perspective of this quote has changed dramatically. Describing language in the form of clothes is fitting to the writing process and the rhetorical principles we learned in class. From my point of view, this quote can be interpreted in such a way that different forms of language can be used as a channel to express a writer's feelings and opinions, with an opportunity to disguise oneself using rhetorical principles.

When starting the writing process, it is important to prepare and outline your text before writing. In class we learned that we must identify the audience, our purpose in writing, how we are going to present our writing, the type of language we will use, and evidence we are going to include in our text (APPLE). By analyzing all of these things I can determine the best type of "clothes" or language that I will use to meet the needs of my audience. Based upon the criteria established using the 'Apple' outline, the writing process will vary in the way it is presented and the language that is used. I have discovered through the writing process that identifying the audience is most important because after I have done so, I can determine their needs and my purpose in writing to them. By establishing these two criteria I can then decide how I will present my writing. Through this class, I have been able to practice different writing formats and

different multimedia presentations. For example, when writing a movie review one wears a different kind of “suit” from writing and presenting a public service announcement to effectively delivering the information to the audience. Language is equally important when preparing to choose one’s suit of clothes because it sets the attitude and tone of the paper. For instance, different jargon is used when writing a medical paper as when writing a law paper. Just like clothes, one would wear a different type of outfit for hiking than what is worn for attending a formal dinner. Finally, providing evidence is important to finishing the selection of the “suit” to wear. In order to be credible to the audience I need to provide evidence and examples to back up my statements. Determining this criterion helps establish the suit of clothes to wear and sets up a framework for my writing.

In reference to the quote above, different writing languages can be used to disguise a writer, like a costume. I am better at writing in some formats than in others. In situations where my writing is weaker than in others forms, I disguise my writing to fulfill my purpose of meeting the needs of my audience. Sometimes it can be challenging while other times it can be fun being able to disguise yourself in front of an audience. I can tailor my language to be someone I am not.

Throughout the semester I have been able to improve my writing process and language. I have discovered new forms of writing language to add to the “suit of clothes” at my disposal. Previous to taking this class I knew about the importance of a thesis and outlining a paper, but I wasn’t strong at framing a paper and focusing on the audience. This semester I have focused on improving the framing of my papers in a way that determines the APPLE criteria and making sure my thesis is tailored to fit the needs of my writing audience. I feel that my focus on this area has improved my writing significantly.

I have continued to improve in areas of writing where I am strong and have learned about news forms of writing. We began the semester by writing a memoir. I especially love writing memoirs because I feel I am good at writing them. I learned there are many ways to writing a memoir. In my first draft I discovered that the way I enjoy writing memoirs is *in media res* or in other words, writing a memoir by starting in the middle of the story. Through many revisions I was able to learn how to write differently from my preferred style and developed a great memoir about my grandpa in the hospital. During the semester I was presented with new writing formats, including the proposal and public service announcement. The public service announcement assignment introduced to me a new form of multimedia writing, which I found to be an enjoyable experience, and was glad to work with other classmates who provided great insight.

Overall, I am glad that I was able to attend this class this semester. I have gathered new 'suits of clothes' to add to my writing language. I have also been able to strengthen my writing process using rhetorical principles and discovered different formats of writing. I hope to continue to use the things I have learned in this class to improve my writing in the future.