

This semester has been filled with numerous opportunities for me to learn both academically and personally, in and outside the classroom. One of the most significant changes I've made is pushing myself to take more risks in assignments and letting my personality shine through them. In the past, I often stuck to safe, structured approaches, making sure that I met all the requirements but rarely going outside of my comfort zone. However, this semester I've made an intentional effort to experiment more with my work, whether it's through the way I present ideas, the examples I choose, or even how I use language.

For instance, in my narrative essay, I've tried to infuse my writing with more of my authentic voice, making sure that my personal reflections and passions come through. Instead of focusing solely on what the requirements were and what my professor wanted to see, I've focused more on expressing my own ideas and interpretations. This has allowed me to make my work more engaging, both for myself and for my readers, and has given me a deeper sense of control over my projects. Taking these risks has been a rewarding challenge, as it has forced me to be more creative and to trust in my unique perspective. By embracing my own style, I've not only gained more confidence but also found that my work is more meaningful and impactful when it truly reflects who I am.

I also learned about my resilience. Balancing my academics with my other commitments has been a challenge, but I've found ways to stay organized and focused on my goals. Writing my narrative essays, particularly "Roots of Purpose: Finding Purpose Through Connection," allowed me to reflect on my personal growth and my desire to use my voice and experiences to impact others. Through this process, I realized how passionate I am about creating work that not only reflects my experiences but also that others can relate to and encourages them to think about their own passions and purpose.

As I continue my studies, I plan to apply the things I have learned to not only my academic work but also to the clinical experiences I will encounter as a future speech language pathologist. By staying committed to growth, I'll be better prepared to help my future clients overcome communication challenges. Overall, this semester has reinforced my desire to become a compassionate and resourceful speech language pathologist who can empower others to find their voice, just as I've learned to do for myself.

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