

I.

A.

Now that I have not only finished a semester of English 109H but also my first year of college, I have learned some things about my writing process, my work ethic, and how I like to structure my time. The structure of the structure of English 109H's blog posts has forced me to be proactive on huge projects in a way that I have not been able to get myself to do in the past. I have enjoyed doing smaller bits of work over a few weeks rather than having one miserably jam-packed day full of desperate attempts at turning research into ideas and then turning those ideas into essays.



Neil Conway. "[Brains.](#)" 7/31/2009 via Flickr. Attribution License

B.

It takes everybody a while to figure out how their brain works. Some people figure that out during childhood, some people figure it out in highschool, some in college, some even later. High school never helped me much. I got really good at procrastinating but, beyond that, I developed few time and work management skills. I had a similar experience throughout my first

semester of college - I procrastinated and struggled with my classes. But this semester I had an English 109H enlightenment that helped me figure out how my brain works: outlines.

II.

A.

I have made outlines before. It is not as if this was an entirely brand new experience. What changed was my engagement with the outline. The structure explained in the blog post directions gave me something to go off of that I had not had before. The outline I made for Project 1 was decently helpful. However, it was not until Project 2 that I really saw the immense and endless beauty of outlines. I was able to think through and plan a lot of my work that I just did not know how to do before that. Because of this, I am much better able to organize my work. This has not just helped me in English. I have used this in literally every single class I am taking this semester. It has affected my time management in an incredibly positive way.



Ralph Arvesen. "[Angry cat.](#)" 09/18/2013 via Flickr. Attribution License

B.

I used to go off of one idea and dive into an essay with little to no planning. This never turned out well. I had poorly written essays or long and intensive editing processes. Using outlines before starting essays has added a step to my work processes which gives me a chance to reflect on and revise my ideas before they turn into an essay. Outlines have helped me become more a more proactive and intelligent writer.

III.

A.

After mastering the art of the outline, I have also worked through the ever complex intricacies of technology. Despite how technology savvy I am supposed to be as a nineteen year old in the twenty first century, I have a very limited understanding of how technology works. So understanding how things like Garageband and now iMovie work is always a little bit of a struggle. However, throughout my time putting together standard college essays, QRGs, podcasts and video essays, I've learned a lot more about technology that I will be able to use in the future.

*Shia LaBeouf "Just Do It"*

B.

Another somewhat scary new experience was reaching out to teachers, requesting interviews, and then conducting those interviews. This was a new situations filled with new people in which I had to figure out a new type of professional and academic interaction. Even if this was scary and I really *really* did not want to do it, having this skill is very helpful in the professional world. Requesting interviews, introducing yourself to new and important people, and being respectful and responsible in doing so is something many professionals do as if it is second nature.



tara hunt. "[audience](#)". 09/09/2013 via Flickr. Attribution-ShareAlike License

C.

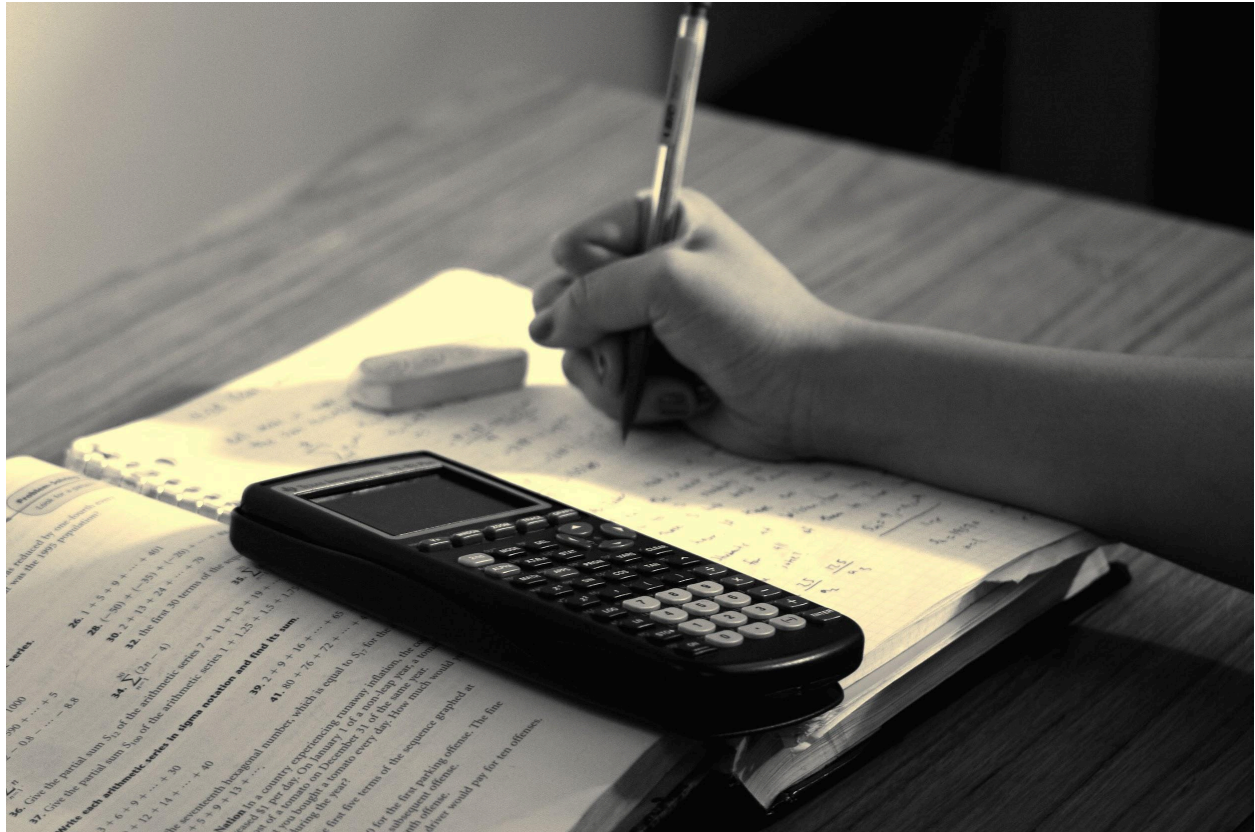
Public speaking is a skill that's development was woven throughout each project. The most development happened during project two. Throughout interviews and recording my voice I had to work a lot on showing confidence through my voice even if it wasn't actually there. As public speaking is an important professional skill, this is yet another thing that's going to help me throughout my professional career.

IV.

A.

The research process - collecting sources, researching sources, analyzing the credibility of contributors, content, and publishers - was always tedious and time consuming. Certainly not how I had conducted research in the past. But, because of this my arguments ended up being better thought out, more educated, and more credible. I never consciously fell into the trap of believing everything I read on the internet but I also never took much time to check out the context of the sources I got information from. With this new awareness, any research I end up using will be much more credible.





Steven S. "[Studying](#)," 11/09/2006 via Flickr. Attribution License

B.

Peer review is a beautiful thing. A beautiful thing whose beauty I did not recognize. The peer review processes have helped me gain insight into my own work not only from the feedback I have received but also from simply reading other's work. While I may have neglected to include much peer review in my work in the past, I certainly won't be skipping that step in the future.

V.

A.

On the first day of class, we made a detailed weekly schedule. I was very excited about this schedule. I put a lot of thought into it, thinking that it was one of the best out there.

Boy, was I wrong.

These "manageable" days turned into 12-16 hour days on campus which was rather difficult as I live off campus. Keeping up with assignments, getting enough sleep, eating well, and exercising at all became difficult.

### *Cats exercising video*

B.

As I am wrapping up my semester, I have learned a lot about how I can manage my time best. Not sleeping, eating, or exercising leads to a lot of feeling like crap. Not being proactive leads to a lot of anxiety. Making an outline makes life a little easier. Having friends read my work and give me feedback makes my work better.

As I said, it takes everybody a little time to understand how their brain works. This semester, I made a lot of progress in gaining that understanding. I know I work better frontloading class and work. I know I write better if I have an outline to go off of. And I know that not taking care of myself leads to doing poorly in school. I'm taking all this information and using it to do better and feel better in the future.



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