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Engagement Habit of Mind

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When talking about engagement what comes to mind? I think of communicating with another or multiple individuals, or getting active in a discussion. But there's more to engagement than just that. Using engagement as a habit of mind is having a sense of investment. Being engaged is an important factor in my life as well as using it within my writing and using it in this course.

This particular habit of mind is a lot like digging deep, finding new connections and ways to take in and share new knowledge. Being engaged in my writing means a lot to me. It shows not only myself but my readers how involved I really am. It is involving yourself into a conversation, or a discussion, or even a type of argument. Like within the "Framework for Success" article we read about some examples it listed were, "To make connections between your own ideas and those of others" (CPWA 8). This quote means to take what you already know and find ways to connect your thoughts and ideas with others. Its significant because it allows you to keep an open mind and try to make more of your paper. This example shows the habit of mind as what it is, engaging, finding new ideas and sharing them with others. Another example would be, "Find meanings new to them or build on existing meanings as a result of new connections" (CWPA 8). This quote explains how to successfully engage yourself by finding the new meanings and building on old ones. This example is significant because it shows you a new way to find new meanings and connections will build on your existing ones. This shows that there's not just one way to engage yourself or the reader.

The habit of mind engagement can be applied to my writing by taking initial thoughts and criticizing them more to take out different meanings. Analyzing thoroughly will help show you are being engaged. Making connections with certain topics within my writing will also help show that I am being engaged. Finding topics I'm interested in and doing the extra research will keep me engaged by always having something different to persuade or argue. Having a different topic or going further in research will keep me on my toes and interested in new information. This will impact my writing by always having new information, and a lot of evidence to back it up. Using engagement in my writing will significantly impact me and my writing in those ways.

While being enrolled in this GSW course, using this habit of mind would greatly impact me. Taking the extra time to make new connections or to find new meanings would help make the work more interesting. It would allow me to be interested in the topic and to show it because I would put my all into it. Using engagement will help my writing be more clear and more effective by allowing me to act upon the knowledge that was newly discovered. It would push me to have an interest in the topics we discuss and having an interest in what it is we learn.

Engagement is an important key when it comes to writing. To continue to be a good writer you need to keep this habit of mind in thought. Which is why understanding what it is, how can you add it into your writing, and how it can be used in this course key. I strongly encourage myself to stay motivated and to take the extra time out to make new connections and engage myself in my writings and that is what will make me a better writer.

Work Cited

CWPA, NCTE, NWP. *Framework for Success in Postsecondary Writing*. CWPA, NCTE, NWP, 2011.