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Reflective Essay for Researched Argument

This essay was a big learning experience for me as a writer, contributing to me learning my strengths and my weaknesses when it came to long form, academic, and researched writing. Throughout drafting the essay, I consistently seemed to change my point of view, but also find different points of the argument that made it hard to specifically lean towards one side. When first drafting it early on in the semester, I had planned to make it simply and argument *for* net neutrality, arguing that the opposing side had no justification whatsoever in making the Internet closed and limited. However, I came to find throughout my research, especially while researching the Ebscohost online database, that the opposing side and view held by the cable companies an providers had some solid arguments in why they did some of limitations and practices that were done.

One thing that really helped me in the beginning while writing this essay was the fact that the papers we had done in class before it were all focused on this subject. The synthesized argument especially helped me find the points of view that I should’ve seen before. Because I had to argue both sides, and find a conclusion from them, I changed what my original thesis would’ve been, and leaned more towards a central argument that made the reader choose a side. In my researched argument, I *informed* the reader about the facts; talking about the ISP’s as a business, and the business decisions they needed to make, the fairness needed for competition in the free market, as well as the consumers point of view when it came to their usage of the networks.

One of the struggles I did have with this paper is keeping my sources locked, and finding a way to educate the reader about this extensive topic, mainly because it is very heavy in the technology vocabulary it uses. I have an extensive background in technology, as it is one of my main interests and hobbies that I indulge in. Thanks to my peer reviewer, I was able to see what some of the arguments looked like from an outside perspective, and find what parts of the paper I needed to expand upon and explain more. This was to assure that the reader was able to understand the jargon used by the web and tech industries, especially since this background knowledge is needed to understand my argument at all. Another issue I ran into was the fact that even today, more and more information is being released on the debate of net neutrality, including cell phone carrier’s ideas and promises, cable companies schemes that keep a customer locked into their service, as well as political and public opinions expressed and viewed on net neutrality. Just a few days ago, as of this writing, the White house released a statement about internet fast-lanes, and their stance on them. As it would be nearly impossible to implement that into my essay without another page or two of explanation as well as seeking yet another source for this argument, and analyzing it, I have simple stated in my essay that the information around this topic is always changing, and public opinion as well as modern events continue to sway the arguments of both sides.

I am glad that I was able to choose a topic of my own liking, especially with net neutrality. I was able to keep my argument mostly neutral, without leaning towards any side, but it is evident that I have a passion for this topic, as well as background knowledge that I use a lot in this paper. It helped me get past some of the writers block I had, as well as contribute to the length because it was easy, from my point of view, to write about such a topic. I was able to finish about 9 pages total before the date of a peer review, which is quite a feat for me personally, since I sometimes procrastinate way beyond what I should. The passion I had for this topic, as well as my self indulgence and knowledge I’ve gained simply because of my reading about it the majority of 2014, allowed me to write in-depth about it, without too much of a struggle. I did have some writers block when it came to trying to explain it, but once I got going, it became a simple paper; one that I could almost write for my personal blog, simply because of this aforementioned passion and enthusiasm for it.