

Kevin Ma

1. Something I am better at now than I was at my previous academic year is my ability to describe myself to others. I remember last year, I was writing my college essay in my English class. I didn't know how to put myself out there and describe my life in a unique way. In my **Personal Statement**, I described the challenges I faced and how I overcame them. Colleges do care about academic achievements but they also look at how you overcame an obstacle in life.
2. What I am most proud of this past academic year would be the completion of my **News Feature Article**. This makes me feel proud as not only did I learn many new and useful skills to aid me become a better writer, I also utilized most of them when writing my article. I am also proud that I was able to overcome this stress and it was not an easy job finding the information, educating yourself about the history, and putting it all together. It would make me even prouder if maybe one day a student from CCNY would read it too.
3. Something that went well this academic year was my stress and tolerance for college. Before coming into college I felt the stereotype where college would be long, boring, and difficult. By no means this is far from the truth, but my professors are always there for us for anything. The professors made sure we always understand the material and the due dates. The work was fairly easy academically, and if we needed any aid, Slack was used a lot. Or messages via emails.
4. Something that did not go well this semester was my mentality. It was difficult trying to keep up with the work after a tiring and informative day. I always get home at night so I barely have enough time to do the things I enjoy or even to get a job. This is not something that is the teacher's fault and they don't control what goes on in my schedule but it was something that knocked me down. I hope next academic year this changes and I can get my life back again while maintaining a good relationship with my education.
5. Some things I do to lessen the challenges is to do group work or to find my quiet place. I tend to go to the campus library after school If I need to study for a test, to take an online test, or to do work because I know I would focus much better in a proper environment compared to my home.
6. Something I have learned from overcoming my challenges is to find a smart way to deal with it if it ever happens again or if something similar would come up. I will remember how I learned to overcome challenges not by memorizing what I did but instead to imprint the struggle it took to overcome the challenge in my mind. Knowing the struggles it took, I would not want to face that again so it helps motivate me to become better.
7. Someone that helped me grow this year was definitely myself. It would be selfish not to say others didn't help me grow but the key factor in self growth is yourself. You can have all the help you need but you will achieve your goals without doing something about it. I will motivate myself constantly and this is what led to my self growth.

8. Someone that definitely helped me get to this point in the semester is both my FIQWS professors. They both teach good life skills such as writing and talking skills. These are very useful and it can be applied in almost anything course or moment of your life.
 9. Something I am grateful for is the **Feature Article Pitch**. It is a template/structure that makes sense and should be followed for most of my writing. It helps organize the information and what you plan to write. I always like to plan things ahead so this structure actually relates to me as a person too weirdly.
 10. The moment I felt most at ease or happy was probably near the end of the semester. Classes are almost over and I know after the final projects and exams I can finally take a break or rest and do the things I enjoy doing.
 11. What I am most proud of this past academic year would be the completion of my **News Feature Article**. This makes me feel proud as not only did I learn many new and useful skills to aid me become a better writer, I also utilized most of them when writing my article.
 12. New resources and ideas that made a positive difference in this year were the **Linked-In Profiles, Personal Statements, News Feature, Feature Article Pitch, and Elevator Pitch**. The Linked-In profiles and personal statement really helped me polish up my resume and what I need to get a job or internship. The elevator pitch would be useful for when I need to speak to someone very important as it taught me to describe myself in 20 seconds or less and it helped me speak well, formal, and with emotions. This would be extremely helpful for when I need to get a job or get the experience for my career while still in college. The news feature and feature article pitch helped with my writing skills and analytic skills.
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1. My understanding of genres and audience has changed after the creation of the **2 Genre Project** assignment. It really helped me understand to think of what that specific target audience wants and what would really make that group be interested in you or your goal.
2. My understanding of writing for different situations/audiences changed as I need to find the level that appears to them. For example I learned the use of words or the type of piece would be attracted to different types of people. For a child they would be more interested in a comic strip. For a teen or young adult they would be interested in a poster as they don't enjoy reading long articles. While for the elderly they might enjoy reading a good old fashioned newspaper.
3. My writing process definitely has changed and improved for the better. I will start to organize my information and story more flowingly by using the 3 Act Structure learned from the **Feature Article Pitch**. It helps plan my writing better and potentially helps smooth out my writing.

4. From the **2 Genre Project**, I was able to target my audience, my best friend. She enjoys cartoonish water painting so I selected an image and using AI turned it into a cartoonish colorful and sharp style of art. I also selected the primary color as her favorite color so she will be interested in seeing the poster. Also I added little texts as she does not enjoy reading long texts but there was enough text to explain the main situation of my feature article.
5. Similar to the **2 Genre Project**, I would research more about the person or ask questions. I would research the age of the person, what they like and don't like, what are their hobbies or color choices. Also, I would make sure the genre is something they can relate to. If they like drawing or animations, I will do a comic strip or poster or even a video.
6. For the researching process that I learned from writing the **News Feature**, I have learned many things. First of all, I have to find the correct people to ask to interview them. I have to come prepared to ask the correct questions and have enough basic knowledge of the situation so I can understand what I'm hearing. Secondly, I have asked them formally via email or ask politely in person. Lastly, I have to be able to write down anything as it could be important. This will help again in the future when I need to ask other people for questions.
7. How I have my ability to compose my own positions or arguments hasn't really changed too much. Throughout the four years of my high school I have been writing argumentative essays so whatever I believe in I can write with claims or evidence to back me up.