

Quality of a Renaissance Graduate: Area of Growth

Craftsmanship and Quality

The Quality of a Renaissance Student that I believe I could benefit the most from improving is Craftsmanship and Quality. The school describes these two qualities as the ability to complete work with consistent care for organization, detail and accuracy as well as the capability to craft, refine and polish a piece of work until it is of meeting quality. Craftsmanship and quality are important traits that can be used to benefit you not only in school, but in many other different areas of life. For example, in sports, an athlete demonstrates their craftsmanship by recognizing their weaknesses and working hard at practice to improve the skills they struggle with until they meet their own personal standards. Successful athletes also value the quality of their performance and take pride in the little details of their work on a regular basis. For example, when athlete is trying their hardest to complete a given task, they try to complete the task as best as possible to show their talents and express themselves. I believe I possess the ability to use Craftsmanship and Quality to help me be successful, I demonstrate these two qualities on a regular basis when it comes to football. However, I know that these two things are something I need to work on when it comes to school and I have selected three pieces of work that I am going to use as examples of how I have room for growth in Craftsmanship and Quality. The three pieces of work that I am using are my biology project, geometry project, and my history test.

The first piece of work that I am going to use to show how I can improve in these areas is a biology evolution poster. For this project, we were taught about evolution, and stabilization. We got an outline that we had to go over and fill out explaining the components in which we were putting in to our poster project. This included; what type of example we were going to

show, the type of stabilization we were using, and the way it changed from past to present. For the project we needed to use craftsmanship and quality because we had to create a rough draft before our poster but I did not complete this step. If I would have completed a rough draft like I was supposed to I would have had the chance to revise my writing assignment before I handed it in, and would have been able to catch and correct several of the mistakes I made.

The second piece of work that could have been improved by using craftsmanship and quality is my geometry proof project. For this project, we had to learn shapes, equations to find area, surface area, and volume. This project was meant for us to show our understanding on how different shapes have different sizes and outcomes due to the dimensions and other shapes involved. I received a 2 on this project because I didn't finish it and I didn't complete the self-reflection that was required at the end. If I would've used craftsmanship and quality I would've finished the project on time and been able to go over the self-reflection in order to receive a better grade. I failed to pay attention to detail and to take pride in the quality of this piece of work. What I need to do in the future is to begin large projects ahead of time and put more effort towards doing them the right way and not just rushing last minute to get part of it done.

The third and final piece of work that I am going to show is my LT1 westward expansion apology letter. For this essay we had to analyze how different groups of Americans justified and experienced westward expansion. For my grade I got a 2.5 which is approaching the target but I could've gotten a much better grade if I would've used craftsmanship and quality. In the essay we had to use what we learned in class about westward expansion, such as, what issues occurred, why they occurred and what the costs were of what had happened as a result of it. We learned about all of the people who were affected in the westward expansion, what Americans got out of it and how we benefitted from all of the things that occurred. I found a lot of this

information to be very interesting and important but I did not express this in my essay. I could have used my interest in what we were learning to be more detailed and accurate in my writing. Had I used my notes and classwork to include specific details and information, I would have used craftsmanship and quality in the writing process and probably would have gotten a better grade for doing that.

I know that I possess the ability to use craftsmanship and quality to help me be successful because I have done it on the football field. What I need to do now is take what I have learned from my success in sports and apply it to school. I need to make hard work a habit for me in the classroom and begin to value the school work I complete. I will also make a commitment to completing my rough drafts on time so that I can check and revise my work. Doing this will improve my grades and help me to develop better habits of work. I will create smart goals for myself and I will try to do a better job of managing my time between school, sports, and work. I know that if I make a habit of working hard in school in the same way that I do in sports, then I will be rewarded with better performance outcomes, which something I value in sports and in the classroom.