Argumentative Essay Reflection

I did my argumentative essay over the subject of animal testing which I knew a little bit about before starting. We have learned about some aspects of animal testing in science classes and also have read articles over it. There are many propaganda commercials and articles about the cruelty behind testing human products on innocent creatures. Though I knew the details of some animal experimentation, I wasn’t too sure about how they went about the testing or the conditions the “subjects” were living in. I also didn’t know about the costs of it or the reasons why it may be necessary in some cases. I feel like I have gotten better at this work since I have written essays which can be argued so much in my lifetime but I had never really taken a clear side in my writings. This time, I felt like I really improved since I took a stand for my beliefs and argued my side based on facts that I had found during the researching process. My process for conducting this essay was quote simple. I first thought about what I wanted to argue and then I thought about how I could argue it, which was my biggest struggle. Then I found information to back up my thesis and went from there.

The thing that was the most satisfying about the process of this project was becoming more educated on a highly debated topic. Before, I felt like I didn’t really know what went in to animal testing or how it worked. I also didn’t know the benefits or the consequences of this type of testing. I feel like the main reason the project was satisfying was it kind of debunked some of the preconceived notions that I had before doing any sort of research. Though I still agree that animal testing is bad, I do have some different ideas about it now. I feel that the conditions that we keep the animals or “test subjects” under before and after the experiments are cruel and unusual and I definitely feel that we should have some restrictions on the types of tests that scientists are allowed to conduct. I do see, however, the benefits of testing drugs on creatures since the medicines that we find useful can be used to help not only people but other animals as well. This is one of the biggest ways that I have changed my view on the testing of animals in laboratories.

If someone else was looking at my essay, they would notice that I am a very blunt and forward person and also very opinionated in things that I feel strongly about, like animal testing. Though it is tough to change my mind about things, I am pretty open-minded which is something that I think is shown in my writing as I try not to be bias based on previous knowledge that may be false. For this piece of writing, I showed the good side of experimentation on animals and also the bad side based on the recent research I had done of the topic. One thing I would like to improve on regarding argumentative essays is making my thesis more clear and also being more organized while I’m writing. Sometimes I feel that when I write I just throw all of the information I have learned about into three separate paragraphs but never really take time to sort out my facts into categories. This is a problem that I have had in the past in my other classes as well and with this specific assignment, I really tried to focus on organization.

 In school, I would like to spend more time on preparation and also on what information would be good to include in certain types of essays and what information is extra or unnecessary. Sometimes, it is hard for me to tell what I should and shouldn’t include in my essays and also what sounds too bias. These are a few skills that I need to work on when writing my essays. I also need help to manage my stress levels when it comes to writing pieces for class or timed-writes. Sometimes I get so stressed out that I can’t think about the topic clearly and this may add to the problem of why my paragraphs can sound jumbled together.