Catcher Test Reflection

Writing a test for my fellow peers was something that I had never done before. I found the process that I went through to be quite different than my process for, say, writing an essay or taking a multiple choice test since I actually had to come up with challenging questions. The first thing I did in order to find inspiration was I looked up some generic questions that are asked on a test by a teacher. Then I looked at the book randomly until I found a page that included information that was either important to the story or Holden’s character. After that, I would write the question in a basic way and then go back and reword it to make it sound more professional. Some of the major problems I encountered included finding the right types of questions to ask in order to meet what the rubric said I needed. After a while of coming up with questions, it became very difficult to find ways to word the questions in a different way and also to come up with answers that didn’t sound completely ridiculous. The last two portions of the test were easy since it was fairly simple to come up with a prompt for short answers or a small essay but I did find it troublesome that the rubric never specifically mentioned how many multiple choice questions you needed in order to get an A (which was apparently 12).

The project got quite frustrating, especially since the rules were never truly explained to us at the beginning, but rather were told a little bit at a time throughout the project. This was annoying since when these new rules were explained, I had to delete some of the work I had done in order to accommodate for the new rules made. Also, we all didn’t have that much time to work on the test. Not only that, but the fact that we had to have twelve out of the twenty questions come straight from the book as a quote seemed a little absurd. It got really hard to find any quotes that went along with what you were trying to say after a while. As I worked on the writing of this test, I learned that I can be pretty creative though stubborn and also bit whiny. There were many things I didn’t necessarily love about the project and I wasn’t afraid to say it. I also learned that I am not very good at coming up with realistic fake answers. The fake answers that I did come up with seemed a little too close to the actual answers and may have been confusing for the test-taker. Overall, I think that making multiple choice and short answer tests isn’t my forte.

I think that for the most part, I did my project like others did theirs. To be honest, it is hard not to since there are set guidelines to follow and everyone is doing the same project over the same book. We all had some strong multiple choice questions and some weak ones. We all also kind of just randomly looked at pages in our book to find something to write a question about. I feel that I didn’t really meet the rubric’s standards or my own. I tried hard at the beginning but eventually at the end, I sort of gave up trying to make my questions or prompts good. As I look back, there were also some grammatical errors and some questions that I asked which either didn’t make sense or weren’t relevant to the book. I also didn’t have the number of multiple choice questions that we supposedly were suppose to have. These are some of the things that I regret about my test. The fact that I didn’t put enough effort into all parts of it and the fact that I didn’t look over it, or the rubric, enough to catch my errors.

One thing that I would improve about this project are the questions towards the end. I forgot/didn’t know that not all of them were suppose to be short answer questions in the section titled “Analysis Questions”. If I were to do this project over again, I would have two or three of them be harder multiple choice questions and I would also fix my grammar errors. A goal that I am setting for myself the next time is to be more detail-oriented and also pay more attention to what the rubric says. I would also ask my teacher more questions, which I didn’t do this time and I sincerely regret.