

Student 2
IRW 0312
Ms. Cuyler

Reflective Essay

The IRW course is different than most courses offered at a community college. One reason I liked this course is the interactive ability of the class. Instead of going off some “old textbook” and structured outline, we did not use a textbook; instead we were able to put our input into the planning of the course which made the course much more interesting and beneficial for us as students.

When using the renewable energy component, we were able to go see the different types of renewable energy in person and learn about those different types from someone with knowledge in that field versus reading about renewable energy from a textbook. When you write about something real versus something a teacher talks about in class, students are able to connect more to the subject they are actually writing about and are able to create a “real world” paper versus some boring essay.

Using virtual reality, the teacher is able to teach a class in a different way, which allows the students to become more interested in the subject being taught. When we were learning about the solar system using virtual reality, it was like we were actually there. It was real and let me tell you I will never forget what I learned about the solar systems. Virtual reality also helps to engage the students in a more interactive way where we can actually learn because the subject becomes much more interesting.

The overall experience of taking an interactive class versus “old school” method is very positive. I recommend that Coastal Bend College use this strategy to teach future IRW classes as it allows students to write real world papers and is much more interesting

than learning from a textbook. I also believe that it would be helpful to pair IRW with Criminal Justice because this would make the essay more interesting and would also draw in the attention of the students.

The interactive ability in the IRW course taught at CBC allows for students to get a “real life” feel of a subject verses reading about that subject from a textbook. Being able to have input in the course as a student, made the course more interesting for me. The ability to go and see different types of renewable energy was very rewarding and assisted in the learning process in a much more productive approach than “old school” ways. Learning about the solar system through virtual reality made the subject come to life and was very unforgettable for me. The overall experience of this interactive class was very positive and I believe this method should continue for future IRW classes.