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Reflection on “Diary of a Madman”

From the moment the assignment was given and a prompt was displayed, I already had a layout of what I wanted to write in my essay. I had plenty of ideas. However as time went on I realized that many were simply background or summary of what I was researching. I had too many ideas that I had to map out everything in an outline. In the end after putting everything together in the outline, there was too much background. A quarter of the entire outline became a background research on Nikolai Gogol and his life in Russia. Who was the Czar of the time and how society was like. Deleting that entire section of background research I did not want everything to go to waste. Therefore I implanted the argument to be whether or not, Nikolai Gogol was truly schizophrenia or was it all part of his antic disposition. As how I did my research, I saw myself use google search more than anything. However many of the research were from wikipedia as others were articles. Tried to avoid the wikipedia however when I was researching for Nikolai Gogol’s past, there were only on wikipedia. Used the ccny library page a few times, read some articles on treatment of schizophrenia however they did not seem to be for anything I was arguing for in the essay.

When writing the essay there was two things that I was confident about and I just wanted to include in my essay. One was if the narrator of “Diary of a Madman” was truly schizophrenic or was it all an act. The other was the symbolism of the dogs and dates. In the past every project

I did in art or in literature writings. I was always fond of placing symbolism into my drawings and enjoyed interpreting symbolism in literature. How one thing and represent and symbolize many other possibilities always surprises me. Seeing how the dogs linked into feminism and can also symbolize loyalty in the narrators unconscious both in my opinion were good ideas for the essay. The most difficult part of the essay was the transition between paragraphs and changing the topic from symbolism to treatment options. Personally finding that the most challenging to even show how relate the two with the next topic sentence or the concluding sentence of the paragraph before.