

Jules Ashcroft

Professor Emeritus David Taylor

English 1101

19 July 201X

A Frightful Time at Savannah Tech

Little did I know when I signed up for English Composition that I was about to have one of the most frightening experiences in my life. What happened? Writing the research paper in this course became an exercise in overcoming fear.

The first frightening thing was knowing that I had to cite sources. This skill was not covered in my high school. So I was fearful that I would plagiarize and get kicked out of Savannah Tech. Luckily, I was able to watch some videos, read the online lectures and learn the basics of source citation. As a result, I was not so afraid any longer and ended up not having any problems with either in-text or reference citations

The second frightening thing was the Savannah Tech Library. At the start of this course I did not know the difference between a database and a navy base. As a matter of fact, I didn't even know Savannah Tech had a library. So I had to seek extra help in learning to use the library databases in order to find my sources. I met online with a librarian for an hour. I searched the databases, found my articles and learned to save them to my computer. Today I am confident, not fearful, that I can use any online databases from any library.

The final thing that frightened me was MLA formatting. This means that all aspects of the paper had to be just right: margins, spacing, font, type size, and so forth. Again, I was lucky to find a video which showed me the correct settings for MLA on my computer. I also attended classes when the teacher demonstrated how to set up a Word document. Now I am certain that I

can produce correct documents in a number of style formats: APA, MLA, Chicago or whatever the aviation industry requires.

In conclusion, although writing the research paper in this course started out as a frightful experience, through hard work and good resources I was able to overcome that fear and learn the skills I needed for success in English 1101.