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Professor Drogin  
Writing Project 4: CBR Classes: More than Just a Required Course

To Whom it may concern,

Often times in college, especially as freshmen, students find themselves stumbling into courses they are required to take in order to graduate...regardless if the subject matter is of interest, or pertains to the specified major of the student. This behavior usually leads to low participation or a low interest in the course due to its habit of only appealing to students within that specific major. However, I recently stumbled upon a course that both fulfilled one of my requirements, and required that I commit myself to the course as if my major depended on taking the class. In fact, through participating in my community based research writing class I, as well as the other students who took similar courses, voluntarily gave up hours outside of the classroom to contribute to society, while gathering useful and intriguing research at the same time. Before attending the University of Denver, I had not only not been in such a class, but I had not heard of such a class, and this trend held true for many of the other students in my course. Nonetheless, the rewards the class ultimately offered were far more impactful than the final grade in the course.

My class volunteered for an organization called America SCORES, a recreationally-linked educational program that works with at risk young boys and girls across America, creating opportunities for the youth to compete in a world that offers them little aid economically. The program strives to involve the participants in activities which are physically and academically stimulating through the use of an after school soccer and poetry program. After the first visit to some of the program locations, many peers claimed that the experience has "definitely taught me a lot." In addition to this gaining of knowledge, several of the students returned to volunteer throughout the course, even when the participation was "not necessary for the course itself." Due to this, the students in the course created lasting relationships with some of the participants of SCORES. For me personally, kids were shouting out

“don’t leave” and “come visit us again please” just after my first trip to the school. Upon later encounters with the participants, I had several come up and either high five or hug me, shouting “hey, I remember you!” This was experienced by many of my other peers, as well. In addition to creating relationships with these kids, I was able to see them grow as individuals, and become inspired by their change. By participating in the development of their community projects, I was able to see how much SCORES had motivated these children, children who may not have much economic help of their own, contribute to society. At such a young age, this is a wonderful accomplishment.

In all, the course not only did its job in improving student’s research-based writing skills, but the course got students involved in their communities and in our case, brought a new world to the community we served. This was done when the University of Denver hosted a soccer tournament jamboree for all the participatory schools on the fields of the university. Individuals from all social realms of the school participated from the men’s soccer team, who volunteered to hang out with the kids during their breaks; to students in the class, who volunteered as refs, face painters, and documenters of the event; and even individuals not in the class who came to cheer on the kids of SCORES. In regards to improved research-based writing skills, I personally have learned about various methods of research and obtaining information, as well as various ways to convey the information I have gained, depending on the audience.

I know that my involvement in this course and in SCORES has helped me to grow as an individual, a student, and a member of the Denver community and I hope that such opportunities offered by taking this class can be advertised to a broader audience so that the talents and efforts of our youth can be put to good use.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Szympruch