

Student Name

Instructor's Name

Course

Date

Writing About Reading

Throughout my life I have never really thought of reading as something fun to do. I would dread any reading assignment I got in school. I wouldn't mind doing other school related homework, but something about reading made up stories, or real ones for that matter, did not make sense to me. Something about reading the newspaper especially irritated me. I did not see why parents would sit down and read pages of words about random topics, opposed to just turning on the news channel to get the information. However, ever since I was forced to start reading news articles for this class I have found a new appreciation for the newspaper, and reading in general. Reading the *New York Times* has affected me by opening my eyes to all of the benefits reading has to offer. Reading the *New York Times* has helped improve my overall reading skills, has made me more of an informed citizen, and has helped me form my own educated opinions on different matters.

Thesis is specific and aligns with the main points in the essay

I have always hated reading. It did not matter what I had to read about. The main reason behind this was not because I just had some personal vendetta against books. It was because reading anything always took me forever. It felt like I was just wasting my time. However, when we started to read many different articles in the *New York Times*, I realized that the more I read, the better my reading skills became. I drastically started to cut down on the time it took me to read an article. This alleviated my stress towards reading, because it no longer took me hours to read something. I also started to develop different skills like skimming and

scanning. Now when I read an article, I know how to skim an article for the important details. After I have read something, I now know how to go back and scan for the important points that I would like to remember. Reading has become more of a process to me, instead of a chore like I have thought of it before. This has led me to become a more educated individual.

This student reflects on the growth of his or her writing process, and provides details to support the claim that reading skills improve with practice.

I did not like reading before because I thought of it as just busy work that wasted my time. While reading, my mind would always be on the different activities that I could be doing, instead of all of the information I was actually reading. After reading *New York Times* articles, I have come to the conclusion that no reading is useless. No matter what is being read, something can be taken from it. Everybody in this world knows something that we do not already know, so it is important to try and gather as much information as possible in order to be the most informed people we can be. Whether it is reading about the MLB playoffs or the Syrian refugee crisis, there is always important information out there that can be learned. This thought process has even lead me to read articles on my own time to try and be a more informed individual, something that I would have never even thought of as a high school student. The *New York Times* has taught me that knowledge truly is power. However, it is important not to read someone's words verbatim, and take it as the undying truth.

The author provides specific examples for the reader.

Before reading many articles from the *New York Times*, I was a lazy reader. I would read as fast as I could to try and get it over with, without actively reading. This would lead to me being misinformed on a variety of subjects. The *New York Times* has taught me that it is of utmost importance to actively read, and form your own opinions. We have done different activities in class that actually address this very problem. We write papers about how the author wrote an article, why they went about it that way, and if there was any biases. From constantly

having to look for these answers, I have realized the benefits it has for readers. If a reader simply just takes these words as the truth, then they are falling into the trap that the author as set out for them. I have learned to take the author's words lightly, and to form my own educated opinions on the matter based off of what I already know, the information the author has given me, and what further information I can find on my own about a particular subject. By using this process, I will no longer fall victim to misleading articles and will find important information even in the most biased of articles.

Overall, the *New York Times* has greatly affected me as an individual. I have learned that reading is the only way to improve, and speed up, my reading process. It has also taught me that there is always something useful to learn in every type of reading.

Most importantly, reading these articles has informed me on how to form my own educated opinions on a matter, instead of just assuming that everything being said is the truth. **These are all values and skills that I can use in my everyday life, not just for school. I now apply all of these skills when reading anything in order to benefit the most from it. I encourage everyone not to fight reading anymore, and to embrace the reading process for what it is, because you never know what you will learn about next.**

The conclusion reinforces the thesis and also provides significance, revealing how the information is relevant to the specific audience

Considering the limitations of this 60 minute timed essay, this work is exceptionally prepared due to the detailed thesis, the organization of ideas, the specific examples provided to the reader, and the inclusion of significance within the conclusion.