At the beginning of this semester, I didn't really think of writing as something social. I saw it more as an individual task. something I did on my own just to complete an assignment and turn it in for a grade. I didn't think much about who my audience was besides my instructor. I also didn't consider how my ideas connected to larger conversations happening in my community or beyond.

As the semester has gone on, my understanding of writing as a social act has changed a lot. Through working on my social commentary and proposal, I've learned that writing is always connected to other people, whether that's through research, peer feedback, or the audience I am trying to reach. For example, when I worked on my proposal about restoring Santa Rosa, I had to think about how the issue affects real people in the community, including residents, business owners, and visitors. This made me realize that writing is not just about expressing my own thoughts, but about responding to real world problems and contributing to ongoing conversations.

Peer review was another important part of helping me understand the social nature of writing. When my classmates gave me feedback, they helped me see parts of my writing that were unclear or needed more detail. It showed me that writing is collaborative and that other perspectives can improve my work. At the same time, reading other students' work gave me new ideas and helped me understand how different people approach similar topics in different ways. This made writing feel more like a shared process rather than something I do alone.

Currently, I see writing as something that exists in conversation with the world. While I am writing, I am thinking about my audience, the sources I am using, and the feedback I receive. After I share my writing, it can influence how others think or respond to an issue. Writing is not just a finished product. it's part of an ongoing discussion.

In the future, I want to continue improving my ability to write with a clear audience in mind and to engage more effectively with different discourse communities. Academically, this will help me create stronger research papers and proposals. Professionally, I think this skill will be important because most careers involve communicating ideas to others, whether that's through reports, emails, or presentations. Overall, I want to become a writer who not only expresses ideas clearly but also contributes meaningfully to conversations that matter.