

Dear Professor Leston,

My entire life I have been someone who has enjoyed writing in any form it comes. To me writing has been the greatest escape for me from a world I felt wasn't welcoming. But in this class, I was able to elevate my writing. It may not be at a level where college students writing should be, but I am heavily inspired by the readings that we did, specifically by Ulmer, and as well by my peer Naila. Everything that Naila really inspires me, and I'm sorry that this part of this letter will be a little love letter to her, but she's an inspiration now. The way that she wrote blogs, and I'm sure you can tell sometimes I was confused by what was going on most of the time but reading what she wrote for each blog and how she spoke in the class interested me.

Speaking of which, when we spoke in class was my favorite part of this class. Most of the time when I would read on my own I would feel kind of lost and it wasn't until you took the time to explain some of the readings that I would understand what was going on. And that to me showed me that I need to evaluate how I am as a student. That as a student I need to stop just being confused and ask the professor for help in understanding any of the course material. This course also helped me see how I needed to evaluate the way that I read. As mentioned, most of the readings kind of felt like they were going on and on with the amount of information in some of the readings. That I know played a part in how I was in the course, sometimes a little lost, and sometimes I knew what was going on. I used to read the entire page of a passage at a time, grab a big post-it and write a summary of the reading like that. But after this class, I realized that color coding and annotating each paragraph, although sometimes can be time-consuming, helps me out a lot. Especially with the readings that I feel have a huge amount of information that sometimes not all of it is needed.

During the course, we read a lot about things that impacted society and the community. Whether that be through how we learn, how we see the world, how we think when we hear certain words, or even how we listen to music. We watched Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World, and that impacted how I listen to music. It sounds silly, out of all the things we watched or read, or learned in this class, this impacted me. But I am the type of person that enjoys hearing the history of many objects and events through music. So after watching, I listened to some rock music and from what I heard from the documentary, I heard the Native American impact on rock music. Then I guess this part was a stretch, but I kind of heard the impact in other music like Pop. Another thing that impacted me, don't worry this is from the readings, was the way we learn through sound. Saul Williams' passage 'The Future of Language', states "language usage is a reflection of consciousness. thus, the future of language is connected to the ever-evolving state of human awareness. as we become more aware of our existing reality it becomes clearer that we live with the power to dictate our given situations and thus the power to determine our future." This stood out to me and reminds me of the way you would say "We play a role in society when we would respond to someone going 'Hey you!' on the street." It made me eerily aware of how everyone reacted to other things in society. It kind of made me feel like I was suddenly aware of everyone around me. It was things like this that made me so enlightened throughout the semester, and because of that, I am extremely grateful.

As for my writing, I feel like I have elevated a little bit. Not as much as I wish I did, but I feel like I am no longer writing sentences that are not relevant to the assignment at hand. I feel like my writing has become more straight to the point. And once again I thank Naila, but I also want to thank Khaled. He would be the first one for almost every post, and because of that, I would read his post. I feel like I no longer use the same words over and over again, although I

know I need to start elevating my vocabulary. But as stated, I feel like I no longer ramble, I know my first writing piece for this course is about how writing was for us growing up and our relationship with technology was filled with me rambling. (Please tell me if I'm rambling in this letter haha) But I have to mainly thank you, Professor.

This class was hard. It was hard to keep up with the amount of reading, it was hard because of how long the class was on Tuesdays, and it was hard because of the language used. But because it was challenging I loved it. Yes, I need this class for my major, but this class was one of the good classes this semester for me. The way that you as a professor taught was challenging for me but also not impossible to get the hang of. You were very clear on what you wanted and what you didn't want. And yes, sometimes you would ramble in your talking but it was never, to me at least, the type of rambling that had nothing to do with what we were talking about. But because of those ramblings, I felt like I got to know you a little more and it felt more personal of a course than I anticipated. I appreciate that. I thoroughly enjoyed this course and wish my peers and you the best. Thank you.

Forever the rambler,

Diana Rivera