Arleny Mendez

ENG 1101

Prof. Jacquelyn Blain

I have been in this country for almost ten years, and throughout those years writing has never been my forte. Since English was not my first language the first thing my mother did when I came here was make sure I learned to read and write. She pushed me to read every word and every sentence I saw written anywhere and write them later on so I knew what they meant. If it wasn’t for my mother, I wouldn’t have pushed myself to actually know what I was writing, and that helped me throughout Elementary and Middle school. However, during high school that didn’t help because all my English and history teachers wanted me to write different.

My English teachers wanted me to show rather than tell when writing, meaning to describe what I was trying to say rather than just saying it and to follow a specific writing structure. This was the worst part because I was always really bad at being descriptive, and expanding my vocabulary to be more descriptive. The structure we had to follow required us to have a thesis and three or two points that you were supposed explain and support in the body paragraphs make up the intro, three body paragraphs and the conclusion, I am really bad with starting any written assignments (including this one) and coming up with the right thesis because my English teacher wanted us to write our thesis a certain way. At the end I would get a BL grade, I would answer the prompt but I wouldn’t be as descriptive as the teacher wanted me to be. I grew this immense hate for writing assignments, no writing in general. I dreaded having to write essays because I always knew it wouldn’t be as good as what other people wrote, so I always left my writing assignments until the last minute and would end up just rushing and that would really guarantee I got a bad grade.

However, my history teachers wanted the opposite they wanted me to be exact and right to the point. They believed that by being too descriptive we would end up being off topic and would write about things that weren’t relevant to what we were supposed to be writing. Therefore, my writing was either too descriptive or too vague, either way I lost getting a bad grade. During 11th grade my English teacher really helped me not be all over the place and make sure that what I wrote was understandable and clear. Now I don’t think my writing is as bad as I make it seem but sometimes I do get insecure about it because I start thinking that what everyone else wrote is far better than what I wrote and its really annoying. I just want to make my writing better because in the future, the job I have is going to require me to write and I don’t want to make myself look bad with my writing. Every class I take that requires me to write an assignment is helping me make my writing better.