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Learning about literacy

Literacy has impacted us all in some way and when asked about literacy experiences I have had I was able to pin point three specific moments in my life where I was largely impacted and influenced to the writer and reader I am today. Learning to read and write gives people an advantage to understanding one another and gives the opportunity to discover varies perspectives. Literacy is something that we face every day, something that has impacted us in every way from the way we speak, or the choice of words we use. There are so many ways literacy has influenced to become better writers and readers. My family, friends and teachers have all played a role in how passionate I am towards reading and writing and how intrigued I am in bettering myself in those skills.

Living in my household I was obligated to know Spanish if I wanted to communicate and understand my grandparents. I needed to know how to read and write in both English and Spanish if I wanted to assist my grandparents in what they certainly did not understand. Growing up with my family, Spanglish became something I normally spoke in around the house because my grandparents were the only ones who did not speak or understand much English but my siblings and parents spoke both languages. So often I would speak in both languages at the same time and my family would understand me and there would be times I’d be outside my house and without intentionally noticing I’d switch my form of speaking. I knew when and where to speak English, Spanish and Spanglish because I had a personalized way of speaking to different groups of people. The way I speak to my grandparents is extremely different than the way I speak to my siblings because both groups understand me differently. They are accustomed to a specific form of speaking. There have been moments where a person would speak badly to my grandparents just because they did not speak English and as soon as I intervened, they would catch themselves and speak to me nicely because I was able to speak and understand fluently. For example, my grandma has a lot of appointments and she often makes her own appointments and when she sets them up, the receptionist would speak to my grandma with an attitude until I would take the phone and set up the appointment myself to make sure she understand.

Growing up English was my favorite subject hands down, it was a class that didn’t have one definite answer, it was a class that allowed expression through words, through stories. Throughout elementary, I read above my grade level at all times and my love for books emerged from a book called “A Child Called “It” that was read to my class when I was in about fifth grade. The book was about a child that was abused by his mother and it inspired me to read more books about the lives of author’s and their experiences and from there I asked my parents to purchase the books that followed after “A Child Called “It”. I was motivated to better my reading skills and educate myself upon real life experiences authors have felt. My passion towards reading grew as I went through middle school and read more books upon history such as the holocaust. Reading than turned into writing my interpretation of the book and the message that’s being displayed. Writing than became an outlet to describing what I understood from reading it and giving readers an insight of my perspective.

I’ve always been passionate about writing but my 10-grade English honor’s class made me discover more about myself as a writer than I had thought. The honor’s class motivated me into writing beyond my capacity at the time and allowed me to embrace a different side of me. Although I attended different classes that also impacted my reading and writing, I've always felt differently about my English classes. I always enjoyed essays and being able to write down my perspective of things. This honor’s class opened me up to different styles of writing and different interpretations of writing. I’m probably one of the few who enjoys actually writing essays in college because it’s a different connection towards it.

Literacy has impacted everyone differently and has either made us gain interest or lose interest depending on the experience. Literacy is not only the ability to read and write, it is also the ability to comprehend. Being able to understand empowers us with knowledge and gives us the advantage of so many different opportunities. These experiences have helped me better understand while being in college because it allows me to write effectively and connect with others in many ways. I’m able to describe how my experiences will help me be more productive in college.