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Literacy Narrative Draft

What does literacy mean to you? This question was asked to me recently and as I thought of my response I noticed that I didn’t even know the meaning of the word literacy. I always related the word to the words reading and writing. Now that I know its definition I can say that in elementary school literacy was one of the things I wanted to be good at so I would know how to speak English properly, write english, and obviously also know how to read and understand what I was reading. Since English wasn’t my first speaking language it was a priority for me to learn it so I can do good in school. I remember my mom taking some english classes in her free time so she would be able to help me at home with homework. In my first years of school I had classes with extra teachers so they would help me out. Another factor that contributed to my learning was the fact that I lived with a cousin the same age as me who I would spend most of the time with and she would communicate with me in english.

Even though I would speak English with my cousin at home I had my parents who would speak to me in Spanish. A typically thing about knowing English and Spanish is that you combine both to communicate with your parents and they would understand you. This is known as spanglish. Even though my parents English was known as “broken” I understood them and knew what they meant when they talked to me. Even though my mom was taking these classes her pronunciation wasnt that perfect but to my ears it was easy to understand. This can cause me from time to time talk like them or when I speak to them they try to learn from me. In my outside life I change the way I speak to people or with time I develop a trust and can change the way I talk to them. For example when I just met my best friend I would speak to her only in English and sometimes some words in spanish would slip since I knew she would understand me I didn’t worry that much. Now that I know her for more than 4 years I can say I speak to her like if I was speaking to my mom and this is all because I feel comfortable around her and even the way I text her I don't worry if it makes sense or not because she will understand.

Furthermore my literacy skills also develop when it came to reading the big chapter books and writing essays. I would say that I prefer to read than to write because when you read you learn new vocabulary and new ideas on how to write a story. For example when you have to write an assignment you can think back on how a certain book told a story and what language they used to make it so intriguing. Now when it comes to writing I have difficulties putting my thoughts together. I tend to repeat myself when I just can't think of something new to write. I also try to put in different words so it can sound more interesting but I am always so scared that it won't make sense and I should just stay to my basic vocabulary. One book that I read and liked so much was called “*Hush Hush”* by Becca Fitzpatrick. This book helped me see that I can use my imagination more than I would do if I had to write an assignment.

Last semester I took an English course that helped me see all the literally errors in my writing. What I liked about this class is that I would write what I would see and consider I was doing wrong and I was given a chance to come up with solutions that I could use over time to help me write better. We had weekly assignments where I would practice my writing and try to involve all the solutions I would come up with each week. Even though I found this helpful it would stress me out because I wouldn’t always know what to write about and it would have to be something different every week. Not only that but I had to find a solution to problems and I wouldn't know what would be the best one that can help me improve.

In elementary school and in middle school I would write my essays and always get feedback of how terrible of a writer I was and it was because of my spelling or because of my grammar. This is what helped me to achieve better writing skills. I believe this has helped me change the way I write but even to this day i still seem to have problems crossing my way and I really look forward to changing it.