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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 it's 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 could 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 my time with. This was so helpful for me since she would communicate with me in English and I was able to practice speaking with her and learn new words from her.

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 languages 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. Despite the fact that my mom was

taking these classes her pronunciation wasn't that perfect but to my ears it was easy to understand her. Sometimes this caused me to talk like them. However when I would speak to them they tried their best 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 met my best friend I would speak to her 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 in the way I text her I don't worry if it makes sense or not because she will understand what I am trying to say.

Furthermore my literacy skills developed when it came to reading the big chapter books and writing essays. This was all because I will put new writing skills in my essay and if I had read a book that had good vocabulary words I would try my best to incorporate those words in my assignments or maybe just use it as I talked to someone. When it comes to reading or writing I prefer to read because when you read you learn new vocabulary words 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. Unlike reading I have difficulties in writing assignments since I don't know how to put my thoughts together. I tend to repeat myself when I just can't think of something new to write. When I put in different words so it can sound more interesting I am always so scared that it won't make sense and I should just stick to my basic vocabulary. In addition to literacy one book that helped me with getting ideas and new vocabulary words was the following "*Hush Hush*" by Becca Fitzpatrick. I remember liking it so much I would reread it.

Moreover last semester I took an English course that helped me see some of the many errors I have in my writing. What I liked about this class is that every week I would write a letter about what I was doing wrong and I was given the chance to come up with solutions that I could use over time to help me improve my writing. Since these were weekly assignments I would practice my writing when I wrote these letters 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 my problems and I wouldn't know what would be the best one that can help me improve.

To sum it all up I remember that at times in elementary school or in middle school I would write my essays and always get feedback about my spelling, grammar, or cutting out sentences off for repeating it or because it doesn't make sense. This feedback kinda was what also helped me to achieve better writing skills throughout the years. I believe this has helped me be more of beware of what I want to write but even to this day I still seem to have problems crossing my way and I really look forward to fixing it. I can say that in literacy writing has been my weakness but I am trying my best to change that.