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English 1121- Section D447

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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 know good so I would know how to speak English properly 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. In my first years I had classes with extra class so they can 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 would communicate with me and 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. This can cause me to 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 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 develop when it came to reading big 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. 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. 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 I was doing wrong and I had to come up with solutions that I could use to write better. We had weekly assignments where I would practice my writing. 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 a good one.

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 with my writing skills I look back at my papers from years ago and see the progress .