Ignorance Isn’t a Bliss

*I changed my essay by writing about being more specific based on all my stories I described and how that ties back to reading/writing and the literacy narratives stories we read in class. I choose to further elaborate how much I was like Malcolm X; we were both illiterate and both wanted to become better educated. I also wrote about how I had improved in my classes. How my grades had improved and how proud I was of myself. Also, while a dictionary changed Malcolm’s life, my aunt changed mines.*

As a child I was terrible at both reading and writing. I remember being in my home country in Georgetown, Guyana, in the 2nd grade not being able to take in any information my teachers taught me. My brain wasn’t registering what my ears were hearing. Like Malcolm X, I couldn’t write my words on the line, nor did I know any words to write on said lines. One thing I hated about my school and my teachers was if you got something wrong or didn’t understand something, you would get hit with a ruler as a punishment. There was a day in my school where I got terrified because one of my classmates was trying to get on the teacher's good side and brought her a bamboo stick to punish us with if we got in trouble. I was scared because that day we had a test that day and if we ever fail a test we would get beaten, and a bamboo stick hurts more than a ruler and leaves a mark on your skin. Thankfully nothing happened because my classmates persuaded the student to throw the bamboo stick outside the window. Later on, that year I learned that my family was moving to America and I was excited because my dad told me it snowed there, and I’d never seen snow. Also, I was happy the teachers didn’t hit their students. Little did I know that my experiences in school in America would be worse than my experience in my country.

 I was 8 years old when I came to the U.S. with my mom and my sister. We moved to Brooklyn first to live with my Aunt and that’s where I started my first school year in America. I had been placed in the 3rd grade and I was far behind my classmates when it came to any of the subjects, my worst class was English. In my country we speak an English based creole with African American and East Indian syntax, so it was hard for my teachers and classmates to understand me, it was also hard for me to understand them. My country’s educational system wasn’t as good as Americas, so I wasn’t prepared to see how much harder English was in America than in my country. I was failing all my classes with 50’s and 60’s and what made it worse was that, that same year we moved to Florida where I would have to start over again meeting new people and learning English a different way because teachers don’t teach the same. When we moved to Florida, we went to live with my aunt. Being in Florida was a different experience for me because my aunt was a teacher for kids my age and knew exactly how to combat my reading and writing problems. I felt happy that she cared enough about my education to help me better myself. Like Malcolm X, even though I was illiterate, I wanted so badly to become a better version of myself. As a child I knew I wasn’t smart like to other kids, I felt left out and wanted to be like them. So I paid attention to my aunt’s lessons when she brought home work for me to do and whenever I was confused I wasn’t scared to ask because she was never mean to me or looked at me as everyone else did, a stupid kid who sucked at reading and writing. She focused all her time on educating me and I paid attention closely like a hawk so I wouldn’t miss anything she was teaching me. I know I’m no Malcolm X, nor was I smart like him, but we both didn’t like where our education was, that was our weakness and we strived to make it our strengths. After months of hard work, I had finally become a little better at reading and writing. In the beginning I would get D’s on my work, however, with my aunt’s help I began to get B’s and A’s on all my reading and writing work in class.

Without the help of my aunt from Florida, I would never have improved my reading and writing. I also would never feel the greatness of how it feels to get an A on your hard work and having over a 90% GPA. It was because of her I was able to better myself. Malcolm X had his dictionary, while I had my amazing aunt’s help. Without any type of reading, people wouldn’t be able to access any information that we receive from reading books, expand their word bank, and they wouldn’t be able to challenge their minds and become smarter, more knowledgeable. Without reading we would revert back to the caveman period and we wouldn’t be able to communicate without grunting. I say this because reading helps you to learn words, languages and you can use that to interact with others and build connections. Reading is one of the most essential skills to have and it has endless possibilities of how to use it.

Love Poems

*First and foremost, I had to change my citation because I just copied and pasted the links when I had to use proper MLA citation. I also had to summarize only the main points of the poem and what the poet tries to tell his audience.*

Hemingway, Ernest - Empty Spaces

People all over the world have their own way of expressing their love, be it text, phone call, love letters, face to face confession, love poems. The one that really captivates me the most is love poems. Writing a poem to the one you love is a sweet thing to do and can show that you really care about that person enough to put words together to convey how you feel. A love poem that speaks out to me is by Hemingway, Ernest "Empty Spaces", that he wrote for the woman he loves. Hemingway writes about “the empty spaces in your heart”, when people you care about leave you, it's not the end of the world, your heart will just be empty until the right person comes along. Hemingway most likely wrote his love poems in his home and he wrote all his love poems to the women he loves. Hemingway had four wives and wrote all of them love letters/poems to express his love. The rhetorical appeals that the author uses is pathos. I say pathos because when it comes to love, it's based on your emotions. Especially when he says, “They’ll make you think it’s wrong, like having empty spaces, means that you can never be strong”. Hemingway means that there's enough space to grow and people who care about you will come along and fill that hole. Hemingway wants his audience which is his wife to see that the people who leave you just aren't meant to be in your life, but he won't and is the right person to make you feel whole again. As the quote goes, “There are many fishes in the sea”, and Hemingway wants his love to see that he is the right one to choose. Just like every guy, he wants the woman he has feelings for to be happy and not empty around them.

##### This Too Shall Pass, and You Will Be Okay Again

/ Thiswillnotdefineus - <https://healingaftermyhusbandsaffair.wordpress.com/2014/08/13/this-too-shall-pass-and-you-will-be-okay-again/>

Worth, Patience - Who Said Love Was Fire

Everyone has their own definition of love, whether it be an intense feeling of deep affection, pleasure, feel a romantic or sexual attachment to someone, love is fire, etc. According to Worth, Patience “Who Said Love Was Fire?”, Patience believes “that love is ash. It is the thing which remains when the fire is spent.”, which are the moments that two people in love have/had with each other. These moments don’t suddenly disappear, they stay in your hearts forever. This poem was written more than 20 years ago and what Patience is saying makes sense to this day. Love can be fire, but what happens when that fire burns out? When that happens, do you go your separate ways and never speak to each other? No, you take those ashes, those important memories of each other and try to strengthen the bond you two have and relit the fire that you once had. This venue is a love poem which was probably written in Patience’s own home. The tone is very calm and casual. The rhetorical appeal that Patience uses is pathos because she explains how love isn’t the fire that we believe it is, she goes to explain how love is indeed ashes, showing us that when the fire burns out what’s left is always the ashes. Patience wants her audience to see that we all have our own definitions of love, but when it comes down to it, love is the ashes that remain after the fire is burnt out and after it’s burnt out there’s always the chance that the fire can be relit. Nothing never really ends, there is always a chance for love to bloom again.

##### Who Said That Love Was Fire? By Patience Worth

<https://hellopoetry.com/poem/75761/who-said-that-love-was-fire/>

Cummings, E.E. - I Carry Your Heart with Me

When talking about love, there's always those who believe that we carry the hearts of those we love with us, and that is true for E.E. Cummings. According to E.E. Cummings poem “I Carry Your Heart with Me”, he explains how much one can love a person. That person can be your whole world, the deep profound love of that person, the kind of love that can keep the stars apart. Cummings says, “No fate (for you are my fate, my sweet) I want no world (for beautiful you are my world, my true).” This shows how much one can love their significant other, this kind of love can transcend the soul and mind. Cummings shows his deep love for his beloved. Wherever he goes he is always with his love and nothing can separate them. She is his whole universe and he can never live his life without her. Cummings even goes to say that she is the source of his living and is afraid of losing her. This poem is more than 20 years old and readers can still feel the strong love and connection he felt for his beloved. I believed that the venue of Cummings love poem is to his wife in his own home. The tone of the poem is very intense for he shows how much he loves his significant other. The rhetorical appeal Cummings use is pathos because of the intensity of how he writes his poem, he writes about love and how it is eternal and gives him strength, how his love for his beloved cannot be measured. Cummings wants his audience to feel how he feels, that intense feeling of love, we all have that feeling when we find the one that’s meant to be our world, what he wants us to do is cherish them forever and carry them in our hearts.

##### Famous Love and Romance Poetry - E.e. Cummings - I Carry Your Heart with Me

<https://theromantic.com/poetryclassic/icarryyourheartwithme.htm>

Shakespeare, William - Sonnet 116

Love isn’t something that is easily broken, love is the strongest force, strongest feeling a person can have. Yes, it can bend, be beaten down, but love always prevails. William Shakespeare writes about his own definition of love in his “Sonnet 116.” Shakespeare says, “Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds, or bends with the remover to remove.” Shakespeare is saying that love isn’t so weak as to changes when circumstances change, or bends when the lover is unfaithful, it’s stronger than that. Love isn’t something that can be calculated, it’s immeasurable, and love always prevails. The venue for his love poem can be either in his theatre where most of his plays takes place or his own home. The tone is very firm in explaining the meaning of what true love is, something that isn’t weak and so easily broken. The rhetorical appeal is pathos because it shows how love is in its most ideal from. Love is strong and can survive any crisis. Love isn’t something that can be measured and isn’t understandable, but we all know what love is and that it’s there when we find that special someone. Shakespeare wants his audience to see that love isn’t so timid to be swayed by the changes in two people, or because someone was unfaithful, love is always there and can survive anything thrown at it. If two people love each other, they will fight to keep each other's love and won’t be shaken by anything.

Amanda Mabillard - <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/sonnets/116.html>

Barrett Browning, Elizabeth - How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways

There are countless ways that people love, show their love. We each have different ways of showing our love, and those ways are based on the intensity of how much you love that person. There are loves that are small and casual and there are those that are so intense that they can reach the stars. Elizebeth Barrett is one of those who has that intense love. Elizebeth says in her love poem “How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways”, “I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach.” Barrett wants to show how much she loves her significant other, the depth of that love which can transcend her soul. The venue for her love poem was probably her own home and she probably wrote it in remembrance of her late husband. The tone she uses in her poem is very intense which you can see by the amount of repetition she uses in her poem when she repeats “I love thee” six times followed by how much she loves her husband. The rhetorical appeal Barrett uses is pathos because her audience can feel how much she loves her husband, her extreme love for her husband. Barrett says, “If God chooses, I shall but love thee after death.” This shows that she loved her husband in life and now that he’s dead, she still loves him and will continue to do so when she too dies. Barrett wants her husband to see how much she loves him; her love is strong enough to transcend the soul and she will continue to love him even after death.

##### How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways by Elizabeth Barrett Browning Analysis & Poem

Elizabeth Browning - <https://www.poemofquotes.com/elizabethbarrettbrowning/howdoilovethee.php>

Tagore, Rabindranath - Unending Love

Love is the strongest force in the universe and conquers all. Some believe that love can easily be broken, weak. Others believe that love is unending and beautiful. One who believes love is unending is Tagore, Rabindranath, where in his poem “Unending Love” he says, “I seem to have loved you in numberless forms, numberless times… in Life after life, in age after age, forever.” Tagore is telling his beloved that he loves her in many ways and his love for her won’t wither and die away. No, his love for his beloved will last forever, he has loved her in his previous life and will do so in his next and many more. The venue that Tagore wrote unending love is probably in his own home to his beloved, probably in the place where he has the most memories of her and their love. The tone of Tagore uses is intense, you can feel it when you read how he loved his beloved so much he believes that she’s his soul mate, his love in the previous life and the next. The rhetorical appeal Tagore uses is pathos as he conveys how much he loves his significant other, “We have played alongside millions of lovers , shared in the same shy sweetness of meeting, the same distressful tears of farewell - Old love but in shapes that renew and renew forever.” Tagore wants his audience which is his beloved to see that they have loved the same love as millions of people, shared the same type of experiences of love, and will keep loving her forever. His love for her will never end and he will continue to love her for eternity.

##### Unending Love by Rabindranath Tagore

<https://allpoetry.com/Unending-Love>

Dickinson, Emily - That I Did Always Love

Have you ever loved someone? Have you ever been loved? Do you know the feeling of love and know how it affects a person? Of all the poems I’ve read Emily Dickinson has the most intense poem I’ve read so far. According to Dickinson’s poem “That I Did Always Love”, “That I did always love, I bring thee proof that till I loved, I never lived - Enough.” Dickinson wants her significant other to see that she has always loved and is writing this poem to show that before she loved she has never truly lived. The venue was probably in her own home where she wrote to her beloved that her experience with love is what brought meaning to her life. The tone she uses is intense as you can see when she says, “that till I loved, I never lived - Enough.” This shows that she loved her beloved so much that her love for him brought her to life. The rhetorical appeal Dickinson uses is pathos, which the audience can see when Dickinson says, “That love is life -- and life hath immortality.” Dickinson is saying that love is life and is forever, it doesn’t die. Dickinson wants her audience which is her significant other to see how much she loves him; he makes her alive and their love is forever. Before him she has never felt so alive, he is the spark in her life.

##### That I Did Always Love - Emily Dickinson

<https://www.poemhunter.com/best-poems/emily-dickinson/that-i-did-always-love/>

Chaucer, Geoffrey - Rondel of Merciless Beauty

Love is a strong and beautiful thing, some love lasts forever, but not all love is eternal. Sometimes when you love someone, you might love them with all your heart, but your significant other might have one foot in, one foot out, then that person leaves and breaks your heart. This is the case for Geoffrey Chaucer; however, his heart doesn’t break, he writes his beloved a poem to show how much he loves her beauty. In his poem “Rondel Of Merciless Beauty”, he says “Your two great eyes will slay me suddenly; their beauty shakes me who was once serene; straight through my heart the wound is quick and keen.” Chaucer wants his significant other to know that he loved the way her beautiful eyes once looked at him, so calm and peaceful. The venue is probably in his own home where he wrote this poem after his beloved left him. The tone is casual as he explains her merciless beauty. The rhetorical appeal Chaucer uses is pathos as you can see when he says, “Only your word will heal the injury to my heart, while yet the wound is clean.” Chaucer is hurt that she left him and only she can heal him and make him feel better if she talks to him and takes him back. Chaucer wants his audience which is his significant other to see that she is the beauty is his life and it hurt him when she left, that he wants her to come back to him and heal the wound she left in his heart.

##### Rondel of Merciless Beauty

Geoffrey Chaucer - <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/rondel-of-merciless-beauty/>

The Importance of Eating Healthier

*I had to change what I wanted the FDA to do, I can’t ask them to outright ban junk food, they need to start somewhere first, because most people will be mad and start a riot if all junk food is banned suddenly. There needs to be one type of junk food banned at a time so people can adapt and see the positive effects the ban of junk food will have on society.*

The topic for my unit 3 major assignment is the importance of eating healthier. Currently all I see are people eating a lot of junk food and not taking care of their bodies. For my first audience I chose a speech college student like myself because even though we aren’t kids anymore, we are still eating a ton of junk food and this is a problem. My second audience is the (FDA) Food And Drug Administration because they regulate all foods and I would like to send them a letter to their headquarters in White Oak to tell them about how harmful junk food is to the body and why it needs to be banned. I chose the genre of a speech to college students so they can listen to the issue of eating unhealthily, if they are emailed this issue, they most likely won’t open the email. I chose the genre of a letter to the FDA because that’s the best way other than an email to get the FDA to be informed about your issue.

**College Students needs to eat healthier**

**[Good Morning to you all, my name is Joshua Elcock and the title of my speech is “College Students Needs to Eat Healthier”]**

1. **Introduction**
2. According to npr.org, “A third of U.S. adults are obese, and 80 percent don’t eat enough fruits, veggie, and whole grains.”
3. The purpose of this speech is to convince all of you that you can learn to eat healthier, and why it’s important to do so.
4. To prove that you can, and you should eat healthier, I will be using research results and sources such as, npr.org, health direct, the food guide pyramid on health.gov and nhs.uk.
5. In this speech, I will talk about why people eat unhealthily and the type of unhealthy food they consume and solutions to eat healthier.

1. **Body**
2. There is a problem among us. We are all in college and we’re adults now, so that means we should be more responsible and start to take care of our bodies. However, that isn’t the case, most of us don’t watch what we eat, and consume junk food, order takeout, eat sweets, candy, fatty foods, sugary drinks, pizzas, ice-cream, candy bars, etc.
3. Eating so much unhealthy foods can lead to obesity.
4. According to “Health Direct”, In most people obesity is caused by eating too much, if you consume high amounts of energy but don’t burn it off via exercise, the stored energy will turn into fat.
5. According to “Health Direct”, the energy value of food is measured in kilojoules and to maintain a healthy weight, it’s important to balance how many kilojoules you take in with how many you burn off by exercising.
6. The best way to make sure your body is healthy is to lower your intake of unhealthy foods and to eat the number of servings of foods presented on the Food and Drug Administration food guide pyramid.
7. According to the food guide pyramid on health.gov, there are a number of calories needed to consume daily by different age groups. “children ages 2 to 6 years, women, some older adults (about 1,600 calories)”, “older children, teen girls, active women, most men (about 2,200 calories)”, “teen boys, active men (about 2,800 calories).”
8. According to the food guide pyramid, you should consume (6-11 servings of bread, cereal, rice, and pasta group), (3-5 servings of the vegetable group), (2-4 servings of the fruit group), (2-3 servings of milk, yogurt, and cheese group), (2-3 servings of meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs, and nuts group), and fats, oils, and sweets should be used sparingly.
9. According to “nhs.uk”, some tips for eating healthier is to eat lots of fruits and vegetables, eat more fish that includes a portion of oily fish, cut down on saturated fat and sugar, eat less salt and no more than 6 gram a day for adults, get active and start exercising, drink lots of water to stay hydrated, and do not skip breakfast.

1. **Conclusion**
2. There is a problem among us, that problem is that we don’t take care of our bodies and eat food that we know is bad for our health but do so anyway simply because it tastes good. This consumption of unhealthy food leads to one of the problems in America which is obesity.
3. In this speech, I introduced you to a few solutions to be healthier. Some are to cut down on saturated fat and sugar, start exercising, drink lots of water, and don’t skip breakfast. However, the best would be to eat the number of servings of foods presented on the food guide pyramid.
4. To conclude, I’d like you all to think about your health and put this advice into action. That is all, thank you for your time.

Dear Food and Drug Administration:

I am living in New York where the price of vegetables, healthy food costs more than junk food. Every store I go to I see chips, cakes, ice cream, chocolate, French fries, pizzas, churro, cookies, and sodas costing no more than a dollar or at least a little above. Meanwhile vegetables costs way more Then there's also the dollar menu at McDonald. This is bad because not a lot of people, like children for example carry around a lot of money, so if they’re hungry they’re forced to buy junk food. For most people in NY, we don’t have a lot of money and sometimes only carry a dollar in our pocket and if we’re hungry we’re forced to buy chips, two of the fifty cents honey buns, or the dollar pizza at the corner store. This consumption of unhealthy foods leads to one of the problems in America which is obesity. Junk food has way more calories than fruits and vegetables and since they’re cheaper, we consume them more. Those calories turn into energy and as the energy builds up, it gets harder for your body to fully burn off those calories turning it into fat. Everywhere I go, the trains, buses, movies, parks, restaurants, all I see is people who are eating junk food, and some themselves are either big or obese and they are still eating junk food. Now this isn’t their fault, in NY there aren’t a lot of high paying jobs for everyone and you can’t really get money to buy healthy foods like maybe a salad because its expensive. So, the only option left when you’re hungry with little money in your pocket, is to go to the store and buy junk food to fill you up. I myself do this. Every week my mom makes salad for me, herself, and my sister, but since there's three of us, it's finished fast and my mom doesn’t cook that much because she’s so tired after work. Me or my sister doesn't know how to cook but we always have at least a dollar in our pockets, so we buy junk food and soda to drink. I don’t want these harmful junk foods in my body, I want to be able to afford to buy fruits and vegetables and the same for my fellow New Yorkers. The FDA jobs is to regulate food and not allow foods to be produced and sold if they are harmful to human beings. The purpose of this letter is to tell you that they are indeed harmful to our health. I am asking you to ban junk if not worldwide, but in New York so that the prices of fruits and vegetables can go down. I know that this ban won’t happen suddenly and will take time, but it needs to happen. Also, it needs to happen in a way that there won’t be riots because all junk food gets banned. I think the FDA should start small, like for example candy’s, because they are the cheapest junk food with the most sugars in them. Starting out small, will have people see the positive effects, which would be their kids won’t have cavities from eating so much candy. They will also see a reduction of their kids' weight, because too much sugar consumption is one of the main causes of obesity and not only obesity, but diabetes as well. Then when people see these positive effects, they will be okay with the changes and the FDA can start to move on to other junk foods like sugary drinks, until all junk food is gone. The effects of this, is the world will be much healthier.

Sincerely Joshua Elcock

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<https://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2000/document/build.htm>

##### What Causes Obesity?

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/what-causes-obesity>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/eight-tips-for-healthy-eating/>

##### Junk Food Costs Less Than Fruits and Vegetables: Are We Surprised?

Ed Levine - <https://www.seriouseats.com/2007/12/junk-food-costs-less-than-fruits-and-vegetabl.html>

##### Human Foods Overview for Imported Products

Office of Regulatory Affairs - <https://www.fda.gov/industry/regulated-products/human-foods>

Presentation Notes

On September 23 we all had to do a group presentation on our literacy narrative. The audience’s job was to write what we learned from each presentation. In Mansur, Nataly. Baldip, and Cesar’s group, I learned that they all have different nationalities and struggled with reading and writing. They didn’t fit in when they first started school. They read books and fell in love with reading, and that motivated them to become a better reader/writer. From Jae, Abu, Arnell, Weifeng’s group, I learned that people have different relationships with reading and writing. They were connected by fear, fear of not being able to read and understand complex texts, fear of being punished by a teacher, fear of not speaking up, and fear of not knowing what’s going on in class. In Mayy, Mathew, Ihn, Arly, and Shzeen’s group, I learned people judged how Ihn speaks English and sometimes ignores him. They read a lot of books so they can become better at reading. They couldn’t express themselves because of the way they spoke, and they feared being judged for not being able to read like the other students. In Marcellis, Elijah, and Philip’s group, I learned that public schools failed to motivate them to learn. Having a lisp makes you anti-social and want to keep to yourself. They read books and enjoyed it; they used their reading to learn new vocabulary. They want to reform public schools by promoting literacy clubs. It can help students who are antisocial become more open and out their shells.

These notes on their presentations helped me to become a better listener. Before in high school I had a low attention span, and whenever I had to listen to my classmate's presentations and had to write notes on their presentations, I didn’t do so good. That reason is because whenever I try to pay attention to something I get easily distracted by my friends and sometimes I’m listening to their presentations, but my mind goes elsewhere. However, now since I’m in college and don’t have my friends distracting me, I was able to concentrate more, and since this is college, I tried not to lose focus and it worked. I was proud of myself because I stopped myself from being distracted and paid attention to my classmate's important presentation, because it was about their life and their struggle with reading and writing, something I too struggle with.

Reading Response

I found “Learning to Read” by Malcolm X very interesting, because I gained some new knowledge about him that I never knew. Malcolm wasn’t a very good writer and wasn’t really educated and he saw his flaw when talking to Bambi and forced himself to fix that flaw, not many people can do that. Instead of just ignoring how much smarter Bambi was than him, Malcolm went to the prison library and took out books so he could learn to read, however he couldn’t understand the words and sometimes skipped pass them but couldn’t understand what he was reading. Instead of giving up Malcolm went back to the library and got a dictionary so he can learn new words that he didn’t know. He would sit down and just read the dictionary and record the new words he was learning. And he was remembering the words, and the ones he couldn’t remember he went back to. It’s amazing that Malcolm spent all those years in prison become a better reader, writer and critical thinker, while most people who have a chance at education just take it for granted. I like that even after prison he continued to read books, he says you couldn’t catch him with a 15 min break without a book in his hands.

I really loved reading Malcolm X story, his story really resonated with me because I found it interesting that he wasn’t really educated and he wanted to change that about himself, he wanted to grow and be a better reader and expand his knowledge. Before, I was terrible at reading and writing so I can connect to him on that level. Like him I wanted to better myself and become more educated. Now I can read very well, and I can interpret what I read, like what I did for “Learning to Read” by Malcolm X. I loved his story and his growth and hope that I can grow and become at least half the man he was.

Final Reflection

I believe over the course of this semester I have grown as both a reader and a writer. I say so because I feel more confident in my ability to read a book, text, or article and understand what I’m reading. I also feel confident in my writing ability because I am good at thinking fast of what I need to write. Before when I wrote my literacy narrative, I didn’t do so good because I didn’t go in depth with my personal story. I needed to write about how my story ties back to my reading/writing and the literacy narrative stories we read in class. I used Malcolm X story because it connected to me the most, we were both uneducated and couldn’t read and write. We didn’t like how where we were and wanted to better ourselves. I revised my literacy narrative by writing about how I improved in my classes and how proud I was of myself. I also wrote what changed both our lives, for Malcolm it was his dictionary and for me it was my Aunt. I had fun writing about how reading and writing affected my life because I had never once thought about it before this assignment. Before when I wrote my annotated bibliography, I got a good grade, a B and I was proud of myself. However, I could have made it better, which I did. I had to firstly do proper citations because for most of my works I just copied and pasted the websites when I had to use proper MLA citations. Then for some my poems I used too much info explaining them, so I deleted some of my analysis and I also had to write more about what the poet wants to tell the audience. For example, Hemingway wants his audience which is his wife to see that the people who leave you just aren't meant to be in your life, but he won't and is the right person to make you feel whole again. As the quote goes, “There are many fishes in the sea”, and Hemingway wants his love to see that he is the right one to choose. Just like every guy, he wants the woman he has feelings for to be happy and not empty around them. Before my explanation for what Hemingway wanted his audience to see was too short and needed to be longer so I built on what I wrote and further explained what Hemingway wanted his audience to see. It wasn’t only Hemingway, I had to do this for the other poets too, which I did. For my research and audience essay I could have done better, I got a C+ and I’m disappointed in myself for that. It wasn’t understandable what I wanted the FDA to do, I had to fix that. I couldn’t ask them to outright ban junk food so I asked them in my letter to start small, because people will be mad and won’t agree with all junk food being banned so suddenly. When they start small, people will see the positive effects of junk food being banned like their kids being healthier and eating more healthy food now that their favorite junk food are being banned. This will make people ask for more junk food to be banned, which will make the FDA’s job easier. When presentations came and I had to take notes, it was easy for me because, unlike high school, I didn’t have my friends distracting me and I could pay attention to my classmates' presentations. This also made it easier for me to do my presentations too because my classmates were very respectful and paid full attention to my presentations and looked as though they were interested in what I was saying. This class has helped me grow as a better reader, writer, and unexpectedly a better speaker. I am able to fully understand what I read, and my writing became better from it because of the new words I learned. Lastly, the in-class presentations helped me to become more open and have fun presenting to my classmates.