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Professor Jewell

English 1101

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Final Portfolio

Literacy Narrative

In my recently developed Literacy Narrative, I developed what in particular in the book brought out my emotions and what I specifically learned after reading “A child called it”. And I also fixed the way I structured the paragraphs in order for you to understand my point in a more organized manner, as well as grammatical errors and got rid of repetative words I found myself using over and over again. I added finer vocabulary words for a more professional look.

A powerful message

My personal experience shaped my relationship with reading and writing because it made me realize that books could be very interesting and they really make you imagine the storyline in your head. I wasn’t really the type of person to open up a book and start reading because I used to find reading vastly boring but I gave it a try and one specific book gave me a different perspective on reading and that book was called *“A child called it”.* The reason why I found reading boring was because in school we were made to read books we weren’t really interested in and I feel like reading would’ve been far more interesting if we were able to pick and choose what we wanted to read as a class. Now I surprisingly don’t mind reading anything because I learned to cope with it and I found that it really did help shape my mind better with new vocabulary and a better understanding of things in general. I learn a lot when I read and that’s what makes me want to read even more. Reading gives you knowledge and you’re feeding your mind and it makes you think and create images in your head, it’s like exercise for the brain. I find books to be a getaway and I was in my own world when I read this book because I wanted to know what was going to happen next and I just couldn’t put the book down. The book that I had read that shaped me into a different reader today was “A child called it” by David Pelzer. This book was both harsh yet very touching to read because it carried a message in which expressed that you could prove people wrong and with the right mindset you could do anything in life no matter your background history, you take those harsh moments and turn them into a beautiful reality. The reason why I say this is because in this book, the actual boy who was in the story was actually the author himself and the fact that he had the strength to share his disturbing childhood is what inspired me to read because this book made me realize the values of life. The fact that his mother treated her own son like a rag doll is what brought out my emotions because it made me think about what my life would’ve been like if my mother treated me the way his mother treated him. I learned to value all the beautiful things in life because others may have it worse. If it wasn’t for this book I wouldn’t of learned to value my life as I do now and this is why this book changed my perspective I had on reading. I had weight on my shoulders because of all the harsh moments the little boy in the story had to go through but at the end of the story when I realized that the same boy in the book was actually the author of the book, it lifted all the weight off my shoulders because someone who suffered so much made it big in life to prove to himself that life could really be beautiful. Books/writings could send very powerful messages and it’s a form of expression. My experience with this book was very emotional and I cried while reading it because I felt like I was in the little boys shoes, the author wrote it as if he wanted us to imagine every detail in the book and it was as if I was watching a movie because of all the pictures it made me create in my head.

 Annotated Bibliography

In the new version of my bibliography I focused more on the details in each source and analyzed them to show how they contribute to the feelings of fear in each film. Also for this bibliography I was focusing more on the essays about the films so I changed my genre to essay, which focus on these specific films and how they built suspense for the audience and how they created fear.

Essays based off Horror films

Fusco, Jon, “watch: How the conjuring director James Wan delivers the perfect jump scare” , october 28, 2016

 In the movie *The Conjuring,* director James Wan knew exactly how to scare the audience with his famous and well known jump scares. When jump scares are used effectively, this causes the audience to feel like they’re stupid and didn’t see it coming. James wan directed movies such as *Insidious*and *Saw* and through his experience he’s created plenty of famous jump scares including the ones in the conjuring. When trying to scare the audience you have to come up with new ways of doing so. James Wan follows the philosophy of fully engaging his audience so that it is easy to scare them while they’re lost in the scene. He believes that if you can use these strategies and scare the audience unexpectedly than you’ve earned it as a film maker. Jump scares contribute to the feelings of fear due to sound and flashes of light. The impact of a startling stimulus depends on two physical characteristics such as its intensity as well as its so called rise time, or how sudden and powerful the stimulus is. A shot gun or a door slamming will make you startle but a plane that takes off will not because the intensity of noise only increases gradually.

“Analyzing the Ways the Director Builds Suspense and Scares the Audience in the Film Jaws.” 123HelpMe.com. 28 Oct 2019

In the movie *Jaws* we are well aware of a killer shark on the loose and this shark is the main reason for the movie and what makes it terrifying. Director Stephan Spielberg creates suspense by using both camera and music very effectively. The audience is led to assume that the shark is looking for something because the music gets louder every second until it reaches its crescendo. This is what makes the audience sit at the edge of their seat wondering what might happen next. Stephan Spielberg built the suspense in the movie by the percussion of volume and different sounds that might startle the audience making them think that something is going to occur. Stephan Spielberg starts the movie off with music and as it picks up the tempo so does our heartbeat and he wanted us to feel the tension right away. The increase in sound and fast motion of the shark is what works up the fear in the audience.

Rodriguez, Ashley “one of the creepiest scenes from Annabelle:creation came from a dream the director had” August 15, 2017

Director David F. Sandberg had dreamt one of the scariest scenes from *Annabelle creation* and wrote it down once he woke upon In this scene there’s a little girl named Linda and she shoots a ball through a bedroom doorway and when she attempts to reel it back, finds that it has been seized by the darkness- presumably by the demon haunting her home. Sandberg found this scene to be suspenseful for the audience and felt he had to include this scene from his dream. Maxine Alexandre, cinematographer states, “Annabelle never moves. There is this rule about Annabelle, so basically the darkness is the shadows of the demon moving through the space. And you are totally scared or freaked out about that”. This shows how Director David Sandberg and cinematographer Maxine Alexandre came together and built this great suspension throughout the movie for the audience. The fact that they made this rule for Annabelle makes the audience fear her because they never see her move and that’s pretty unusual because most movies with dolls such as chunky, he’s always on the run, yet this one makes the audience imagine and this is what creates the fear.

The selvedge yard “The shining, Kubricks masterpiece of suspense, symbolism, sets and steadicam” March 10, 2017

In the filming of *The shining,* director Kubrick turned Stephan king’s novel into a film masterpieace. In the making of this movie Kubrick was very picky in how he wanted this film to be presented. The first steps was to go around America photographing hotels which might be suitable for the story. Kubrick wanted the hotel to look authentic rather than the traditional spooky movie hotels. He wanted the audience to get a different feel and show them what not to expect because in this way they would get a different sense of fear. “The hotels labyrinthine layout and huge rooms, I believed, would alone provide an eerie enough atmosphere. This realistic approach was also followed by lighting.” Kubrick took things even further when he smoothly glided the audience through the halls and the treacherous hedge maze of the overlook hotel. Garret Brown made some steadicam inventions that Kubrick used for the filming of this film and he says “The shining was an opportunity to bear down on technique that you wouldn’t find anywhere else”. You could tell that there was a significant amount of time and effort put into this movie so that the audience could stay in a state of shock after watching the film. It was well put together and is still considered one of the scariest horror movies today. The fact that they made this movie so authentic and where they decided to shoot it contributed to fear because it was a large hotel with just a family in the middle of a snow storm and the man goes crazy along with the little boy seeing ghosts of the old family that died there because their dad murdered them.

Adamson, Connor “from book to screen: Children of the corn” June 4, 2018

*Children of the corn* is one of Stephan Kings popular novels and it takes a different turn than most horror movies take. The author states “The story uses many themes present in kings work; religion gone crazy, the fever of group mentality, and supernatural demonic entities. King likes to follow children as well, and they are obviously a big part of this story.” I find *children of the corn* to be somewhat exotic in a sense because it’s not every horror film you have religious/ demonic children wanting to kill every adult they see. In this film what really sparks the audience is how a group of kids come together and form a cult and follow this religious sequel in which once they turn into an adult which is the age of 18, they must sacrifice their lives and kill themselves for “He who walks behind the rows”. Stephan king chose to have children as the protagonist in this film because most horror movies have scary monsters and killer adults. Children are usually seen as innocent and delicate human beings but king turns them into the monsters and this gives the audience a feeling of shock and feeds into their fears.

Renee V, “How Wes Craven prepped his audience for pain in ‘A nightmare on elm street’, September 29, 2016

Wes Craven, director of the famous film *A nightmare on elm street* made sure that the audience was in a state of shock during and after watching the film. He wanted the audience to actually have nightmares about it and maybe have the character himself pop up in their dreams. The author states “We already know what makes a horror film scary, a ghoulish face, blood and guts, a loud sound, but how do we build up the tension that precedes those scares?” Wes craven creates suspense by using sound and visual motifs in *A nightmare on elm street* to subtly communicate “pain infliction” when Freddy sliced and diced his way through his sleepy teenage victims. Craven used several elements to tap into fear of physical pain, like bold white imagery, striped motifs that mimicked Freddy’s sweater, the color red and materials that served as metaphors for flesh. When sounds and imagery fit the scene it creates tension for the audience and specific colors like red will automatically make us think about blood and there isn’t anything pleasant about blood unless you’re donating it.

Research and Audience assignment

I revised my research and audience assignment so that it states who exactly I am talking to in my first message which is all governments of the world. In my first letter I added some ways the governments could help each of their countries that are under poverty. And for my second audience I've decided to change ted talk into a persuasive commercial that was sent out nationwide.

Poverty

Poverty has been a worldwide issue for as long as existence and its important to address mainly because lower income individuals have experienced high rates of illness, diseases and disabilities than of those who have higher incomes. poverty weakens families as they struggle to pay bills and make ends meet and can’t properly give their kids their necessities. One of my audiences was of all the governments nationwide. I chose to target them because most of them haven’t done much to help poverty or have done very little in which they barely helped the vast majority of them. I wrote my message to them in letter format because they are very busy individuals and seemed like the more proper thing to do. My idea was to duplicate the letter and send them out with their specific language so that they would obviously understand it. My other audience was all of humankind, reason being is because poverty is happening nationwide, not only in one specific country or state but everywhere and the whole point of this is to try and get everyone together as a team to try and decrease these poverty rates and give a helping hand to the people who really need i. I decided to do a TED talk that was “broadcasted live” for the world to see, almost like a commercial to try and persuade them to help with little donations that would make a big difference.

Dear all Governments of the world,

I would like to enlighten you all about one of the major issues we’re facing today which is poverty. Nearly 10 percent of the worlds population is under poverty, that’s almost one billion people living below the world bank poverty line of one point ninety says the article “poverty around the world”. Children are extremely affected when it comes to poverty, many are born into it and poor mothers don’t have the income to be able to provide for their infants and this is what causes health issues for them. In the article Global poverty from world Vision, they state how the number of children dying are from poverty, hunger and disease. This shows how poverty and having no actual income can affect the lives of the people and their life is on the line due to the diseases they may get especially for the homeless people living out on the streets. This is getting out of hand and we need to focus on important topics such as this one and find more ways to help the less fortunate. If the government of the united states just alone helped the US, that would be a big help, there are about 43.1 million Americans living in poverty and the number of people living “near poverty” puts the number to about 100 million. So i’m here to ask you to lend a helping hand because you all have the power to make a change and raise awareness as well as provide more shelters for the homesless because us people can’t do it ourselves. It would make a difference in our world today. Think about the children and put yourselves in their shoes as well as everyone else living in this extreme environment. If you weren’t informed or ignored the worlds poverty line, I hope I educated you all enough about it so you could now make a difference. Thank you.

Sincerely, Lauren Hau

 Persuasive Commercial (sent out nationwide in each countries language)

“As we all know, poverty has been one of the major down factors of the world today and I’d like to talk to you about how we can make a difference. There are about 7.53 billion people in the world and out of the 7.53 billion, one billion of them fall under the poverty line. Just imagine if the rest of the 6 billion were to donate some kind of money to them, it would help increasingly. life is generated off social class, there’s an upper class, a middle class and a lower class. All of these classes involve economic status. The majority of people don’t fall under the poverty line because we’re all too afraid to ever let it happen to us. And if you really think about it , money does make the world go round. It is so sorrowful to think about the indigent people struggling today all around the world. Not many got the chance to work or have the proper education. Think about how much better the world would become if there were less people dying from lack of food and water, less diseases and health issues. This could be stopped if we really tried to stop it. Our voices and ideas are so powerful yet we don’t all seem to use it because we don’t ever put ourselves in their shoes and sometimes it is what we have to do. We don’t know real pain till we’re the ones going through it and if you’ve ever experienced this then you would know that giving a helping hand is more than generous. Want us to fight for their rights and give them a home and make them feel like they have a second chance at life. So if you could all donate even if its just a quarter, you would help many families, starving children and single mothers with no hope. You would be a hero. My name is Lauren Hau and thank you all for listening”

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Free-writing letters in class

In class we would free write and I remember writing a letter to my mom and a letter to Beyoncé asking if they would give me one hundred dollars. As I looked back to my notes I realized I wrote both letters very differently from one another. I chose to write about my free writing with letters because I’ve evolved in writing letters and developed progress in the way I think and use certain vocabulary to enhance my writing. I compared my in class free writing to my research and audience assignment letter and the differences were large because I had to put more thought and knowledge into my letter to all governments of the world and made sure I had persuaded them enough to help out the world poverty and added actual facts and evidence in a way that would for sure make them change their mindsets and help the people in need. In my old free writing letters, they didn’t really sound very persuasive and were very short and I feel like when I have a lot to say my pen never stops moving and in that case my mind was a bit blank and I don’t think I made my mom or Beyoncé want to give me one hundred dollars. I learned that when writing letters you have to add actual evidence in order to persuade your reader enough and give thought in what your point is. I also learned that it takes time and thought when writing a great letter.

Open lab post “Horror movies: Malcom Turvey “why do we like horror movies”

In one of my old open lab posts “Horror movies: Malcom Turvey “why do we like horror movies” I feel like ive evolved from this writing because in my recent writings such as my annotated bibliography I put a lot of my own thoughts in my writings and expanded on the evidence explaining why exactly the evidence supported my claim. I added a lot of my own opinions as well as my own thoughts and I reworded certain sentences or words and came up with my own way to state certain information. I would say I did the same thing in my old writing but didn’t put much of thought or time into making it the best and that’s where I feel like I've progressed. What I learned from this writing process is knowing how to support your evidence and learning how to introduce where my evidence came from, rather if it was from a book, article movie and so on.

Dear Professor Jewell,

 I would like to take this time to express to you how I, Lauren Hau has evolved as a writer, a reader and a thinker throughout this course of the semester. When starting this class I thought I was going to be like every other English class where we just read and answer questions for a grade. But it really wasn’t anything like that. In this class we were required to read and think about the reading for a discussion in class. And most readings were about how we the readers could become better writers such as Donald Murray’s “internal revision” where the process of rewriting was actually supposed to be fun and exciting and a new way of perfecting your writing. It was looked at as punishment because that’s how it was taught to be in the words of Murray and he didn’t think it should be looked at at punishment but as a satisfying part of the process. I took Murray’s charming words and applied it to my now revised major assignments and tried my best to perfect them as much as I could. I feel like these reading assignments opened up my mind and expanded it with many new ideas and different forms of writing. I have gained a lot of knowledge by reading these readings and I found it interesting how this class was actually based off of becoming a better writer, reader and thinker. Thanks to these helpful tips it will definitely help me out in the future with future writing assignments and I would know exactly how to apply these strategies in my work. I would say I’m a different writer than I was from the beginning of the semester because this class really required us to think and evolve on our writing assignments. In high school when we would write assignments I didn’t really care to put my best work out there because the topics didn’t really interest me so I had nothing to really say and wasn’t Interested I’m talking about it. But here in this class we got to choose the topics we were actually interested in and I feel like that’s why I had so much more to say in my assignments and I put more thought and opinion in it as well. Our three major assignments such as Literacy narrative as to what motivated us to read and write, Bibliography as to what genre we found interesting and wanted to learn more about and research and audience assignment as to what problems the world is facing today and how we could fix them, all required major thinking and because we got to choose our topics it made us want to learn more about them and have more to say and want to engage the reader and make it interesting for them. I learned a tremendous amount of research on poverty and how it affected the world and I’m shocked to realize that I didn’t know half the things I know now due to the research and audience assignment. Some evidence to support the fact that I have evolved as a writer, reader and thinker is going back to my literacy narrative and explaining exactly how the book “a child called it” brought out my emotions and what I specifically learned as a result to make it stronger because in my old literacy narrative I didn’t make it very clear as to what in particular in the book brought out my emotions and what I specifically learned. In my revised annotated bibliography I focused more on details that showed how they contributed to the feelings of fear in each film. In each of my major writing assignments what I learned was great things take time and if you’re rushing through an assignment you’re not really giving it your very best. Also I learned how to properly write letters and provide evidence that would support my my claim as well as introduce where exactly my evidence came from so that the readers know where to look up the information. I also learned how to cite sources and citations. Before, on my old writings such as my annotated bibliography and my research and audience assignment I didn’t know how to cite my sources and it was very confusing in the beginning. But after one peer review session, my partner explained to me how to properly cite them and in what order which was the authors last name, first name, title and date m. I really did find peer reviews to be helpful because you would be provided with helpful tips from your classmates and they gave you ideas on how to improve your paper and made you realized some mistakes you probably didn’t see before. They would also help you expand your ideas on the topic. Overall after this semester my not only did my writing, reading and thoughts expanded but also did my knowledge and I will keep improving my writing and reading skills as I go along. Thank you for being very helpful in wanting us to succeed and become better readers, writers and thinkers. ☺

 Sincerely, Lauren Hau