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Prof. Jewell

English 1101

Final Portfolio

*I had my literacy narrative but did not submit it, so I tried my best to revise it by using everything I have learned so far and going back and using feedback I got on the other two papers to revise this literacy narrative as best as I could. I tried to use rhetoric in my narrative in order to have more appeal as well as implementing some other ideas that may make it better or stronger as a narrative.*

A Gate to Another World

During elementary, I had an obsession with reading books. In fourth grade I remember there being a little book club that was started with our teachers. The book was called Harry Potter. After school I went home and told my parent about the book club and the book. I was then told I could not participate due to the book being based on ‘witchcraft’ and such. Seeing as I’m a child I couldn’t really say otherwise so I couldn’t be in the book club. I really wanted to participate so I told my teacher about the situation. She then told me that something can be done so I can be in book club. My teacher and parent had a discussion about another book which was the Percy Jackson series. Luckily my parent allowed me to read the book. So my teacher started another book club which was based on this book in which other classmates of mine participated in. This book series was the first I had actually gotten into and was obsessed with. It lead me to keep reading and discovering other series like The Hunger Games. These books lead me to a whole other world, it basically gave me an escape. There were so many things going on at the time and books helped me to cope. Even to this day I use books, articles, manga, and so many more different types of reading material as an escape to make me feel happy and forget about everything. If I had never ran into the idea of a book club or a book series that got me interested in reading I have no clue how I would be coping right now or even at that moment. Reading books had also helped me to boost my writing skills since I saw so many different types of writing may it have been poems, research articles, mythology, and so much more. I had always had an easy time thinking of something to write since it opened me up to be more creative in different ways due to the books introducing me to the authors unique creativeness. Reading had also always made me want to become better because there was always something to learn I feel no matter what it was I read. In almost every writing there is a message that the author tries to deliver to the audience and I always end up learning something. Before I found an enjoyment

with reading I absolutely hated english class. After the fact that I did find an enjoyment with reading it lead me to become more active in english when it came to reading different stories/articles. Even if it was boring I learned something, and I found myself able to engage more with different topics and discussions. I do still think that english class is quite boring though because there isn’t as much freedom when it comes to what you find interesting and want to read based off of that, or what you may want to write/speak about. You should not be bound to read certain books, but rather have multiple sources to choose from. Overall, reading is something that is precious to me and has helped me cope is many ways allowing me to cross over into the world the characters were in making me forget any problems.

*The revised annotated bibliography was changed by removing a source and adding a new one to keep it more consistent, but it is pretty difficult to find sources that speak broadly about such a topic since not many people or groups decide to go into depth so I tried not to be repetitive. I also went on to explain some details authors used in order to get their message across to the audience they are speaking to.*

Annotated Bibliography

Wilford, John Noble. “Greek Myths: Not Necessarily Mythical.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 4 July 2000, <https://www.nytimes.com/2000/07/04/science/greek-myths-not-necessarily-mythical.html>.

This article discusses how mythology may not have been all ‘myth’. Noble uses research done by Adrienne Mayor in order to create this article. Noble speaks about how Mayor found that places used in stories of greek myth seem to be fossil sites. These fossil sites are most likely the reason as to why these myths came along and were made into stories. The greeks could have been inspired by these findings or the creatures/people themselves causing them to make up such stories which seem to have evidence of having existed just not in the way that they portray it. It was also found that the story of Heracles (known hero) who saved Hesione (trojan princess) where he slayed a monster resembles a fossil that seemed to have belonged to a giraffe which is now extinct. More fossils had also been found belonging to other large mammals and such which was further connected to other stories that were made in greek mythology. The author in this text uses the fact that the sites that were spoken about in greek mythology seemed to have fossils that were heavily connected to the stories that were spoken about. Since there are facts to back up these myths it doesn’t deny the fact that the greeks were not too far off seeing as they were able to use these animals in stories without any real knowledge on paleontology. Wilford is using these discoveries in order to inform the audience of how mythology is not completely fake. Thus, the author is speaking in a formal tone using logos by stating facts that are connected to greek mythology stories, such as the case with Heracles saving Hesione from the extinct giraffe.

Padilla, Mark W. *The Myths of Herakles in Ancient Greece: Survey and Profile*. University Press of America, 1998.

Padilla speaks about the twelve labors that Hercules, who is also known as Heracles carried out. Padilla tells us how Hercules was a popular figure due to him being seen in all sorts of artwork. In this book Padilla continues to speak of the myths that Hercules is represented in and what he is known for. Hercules was a symbol to many people in greece and many were inspired by the stories told about such a person. Padilla goes on to use multiple sources that explain the origin of Hercules. Padilla says how these stories use appeal to the beliefs of the greeks due to the ‘mythology’ that they had believed in. Some greeks saw this as a true religion which is what makes it have such an impact on how they learned and passed down these stories. Also by stating how Hercules was seen in all sorts of artwork and using him as a symbol put on shield and weapons greatly impacted how all of this was perceived.

Cartwright, Mark. “Greek Mythology.” *Ancient History Encyclopedia*, Ancient History Encyclopedia, 29 Oct. 2019, <https://www.ancient.eu/Greek_Mythology/>.

Cartwright states that ‘myths’ is a bad term due to the negative thought around it being fake. Cartwright speaks about how greek myths were used for educational and religious purposes, as well as the intention for entertainment. Myths were passed down through many forms. One of them being orally which was just telling the story and then the people hearing that story passing it on to the next. It was then put in the form of a poem which was put in written form. Lastly, it was passed down using pottery and such. Buildings were decorated in order to celebrate some of these beliefs of the stories that were told. The stories that were told were also to explain how things came to be, one example would be how the world was created. Cartwright also speaks about how stories about heroes and such were used to give an idea of how poor behavior could lead to something tragic and such, so people would not end up doing anything rash and learn from these stories. Thus, Cartwright is stating that some logos and ethos was used in these stories in order to provide reasons as to how the world was made as stated earlier, and as well as those reading the stories to feel connected and learn from any mistakes that the characters made in order to not make the same mistakes.

Gwen, et al. “Greek Mythology, Origin of Greek Mythology.” *Greek Myths & Greek Mythology*, 3 Nov. 2010, <https://www.greekmyths-greekmythology.com/greek-mythology/>.

Gwen starts out speaking about what greek mythology is about, and how it opens people up to a whole new world. Greeks were polytheistic due to the many Gods that were believed in. The origin of greek mythology came from two very old poems created by Homer which is the first text that was made that depicted stories of greek mythology. Using these beliefs lead to it being passed down in other forms. These stories began to be depicted through plays and such and art. This gives an idea to how big of an influence greek mythology as had on history. For it to have been passed down for so many years and impacting both culture and history. Gwen also speaks about how philosophers, scholars, and such use greek mythology to try and give explanations about the world and its ethics. Overall, for greek mythology to be such a huge influence it has appealed to many types of audiences causing them to want to continue passing down such stories may it be through writing, movies, or even artwork.

Sakoulas, Thomas. *Greek Mythology*, <https://ancient-greece.org/culture/mythology.html>.

This author talks about how what we now call mythology was the culture of ancient Greek. They had many beliefs spiritually and traditions that were taken place. One of them being telling the stories that were passed down. Sakoulas gives a list of heroes and important characters that were spoken about in these stories. It also gives a brief summary of who they were and what their role in the story was as well. Ancient Greek culture also gave headway to what we call now Pagan religion. Pagan religion refers to those who are polytheistic otherwise known as those who believed in more than one God. He also goes on to state how even though religions like this one were suppressed in order for other ones to become more known, it was still passed down showing how much the audience it was passed to believed in the stories and heroes. It is fascinating to see how these stories have impacted many people and it still does today seeing as there are popular books that have been made or are still being made and people go on to read them.

“Greek Mythology.” *Archaeological Excavations in Greece*, 2 Nov. 2012, <https://greekarchaeology.osu.edu/arch-edu/mythology>.

The author of this article specifically goes into depth about how the word “myth” is interpreted and where it truly comes from. According to this article the word “myth” derived from the greek word “mythos” which means speech, story, as well as word. As time went on the word began to become entangled with stories that are ‘hard to believe’. Anything that is myth is not limited to one form or genre. It can be a poem, play, and etc. There are also more archaeological facts that help to back up the point that mythology is not all false. The author also goes back to the origin of all of this which began with Homer who was one of the first and memorable poets when it came to greek ‘mythology’. Homer is the one who came up with the word “mythos” which the word “myth”. The article is trying to go back to the roots in order to say how along the way stories have gotten it twisted in a sense that people don’t believe everything that happened due to what has been added or removed, but if you go back to the beginning there are things that actually occurred there which also backs the fact up of how Greeks celebrated these ideas and such. Overall, Greek mythology is ties a lot into how information is distributed seeing as today we actually take news and such and add or remove things to put it out of context or for other goals.

*In this revised version I tried to further use the sources in order to make the message clear that I want those who are oppressed to fight back instead of doing nothing. I also tried to focus on one topic at a time by making them seperate paragraphs as well as using a letter format. I tried to make sure that when saying minority groups I am again referring to those who are oppressed and not seen on an equal footing due to their social/economic standing.*

Blacks, Hispanics, or any other minority group is heavily impacted by government/political corruption. May it be police brutality, or even the disadvantage when it comes to work or school. There is a huge problem with corruption that occurs in the U.S. and heavily impacts not only minority groups, but as well as those who are seen to stand or believe that they are on top which would be white people. There is almost a night and day difference in the way the two groups are treated and this is a problem that needs to continuously be addressed in order for something to be done about it. There are many ways in which minority groups are negatively affected due to corruption which also benefits those who contribute to it. These groups have always been treated unfairly especially when it also comes to equal rights which is what the U.S. is built upon. I chose to write to minorities due to me being able to relate to them, and the government because I believe that they have to acknowledge the fact that they are hurting their people, and need to know that is must stop and it will. This topic was chosen because I feel government corruption is not spoken about too much and there is so much complexity to it which makes it hard to write in a way, but overall it is something very serious and is being used to abuse minorities. I am writing these letters in order to hopefully try and convince these groups to take action by taking some ideas that I give or coming up with their own.

Dear Minority Groups,

I hope to help to inform you more on how you are oppressed and how much bigger the government plays a role in that in which many may not know. According to the article “American Racial and Ethnic Politics in the 21st Century: A Cautious Look Ahead” by Hochschild, the article speaks about how blacks have lost their trust in the government due to the actions that they take. One example would be how the government investigates black elected officials in order to make them lose their credibility therefore losing votes or the possibility to get a job and bring change that will truly bring equality. In this case I would want those with the ability to do so to also investigate those who are white and come from a wealthy background to maybe even the playing field, or just even have a protest in order to stop this sort of thing which can maybe be seen as ‘racial profiling’ due to the fact that black elected officials are being investigated simply due to their skin color or where they have come from.

The article goes on further to speak about how the government purposely make drugs easily accessible in black neighborhoods in order to ‘control’ them. My aim for this part is to have those in black neighborhoods to fight back by gaining information from this letter and using this to spread awareness and take other ideas that I may not put to fight back against this issue. Going on, drugs are already a huge problem, but seeing as it’s actually being supplied by the government in order to keep black people from having the credibility or to be seen as equal is inhumane. My goal is to inform you guys of how the government is attempting to isolate you by making it more difficult, so I ask that you fight against it and not be tempted by drugs and such, and instead follow a different path that could lead to change and power. I also feel it’s important to try to voice this topic since it is not something that is spoken much about publicly.

Those who are black, hispanic, asian, or any other oppressed group in the U.S. also face the challenge of democracy. Even though everyone is able to vote there are still those in the government that are trying to suppress minority groups and prevent them from having the power or ability to vote. In the article “Systematic Inequalities and American Democracy” by Solomon, it speaks about the past and how people of color were unable to vote until much later on. When voting rights were available to all citizens there was no huge change until 2012 where there were more votes from those of color than whites. This caused the Supreme Court in 2013 to greenlight the suppression of voters of color. From that time to the present many minorities have had more racial discrimination when it came to them voting or using their voice to participate in politics. This is what the corrupt U.S. government wants. They want those with color to lose their voice/power in order to keep all the power to themselves and those who back them. I believe that you the people should use your ability to vote and not let this stop you and know that no matter what you have the same rights as that of a rich white person. Together you can stand on top and use your rights to fight and allow your voices to be heard.

Police brutality is a huge topic and issue that can be spoken about for a very long time. Police have become more and more corrupt over the years and have gone as far as killing innocent black people and even abusing their power and beating/harassing minorities. Moore the author of “Police Brutality in the United States” speaks about how here are so many people who have been victims of police brutality, but are unable to tell their story due to the lack of political influence or the lack of financial stability. In recent years there have been more protests which was sparked by the death of Michael Brown in 2014. This lead to protests against the police and the officer who killed this innocent young man in cold blood. Unfortunately, these protests have yet to have been held by more established groups which would help in the sense of demonstrating that the people have a voice and corrupt police officers have to be delt with in order to maintain a safe environment for the people. Police brutality also dates back to the 1900’s and have caused many race riots. Instead of the police force helping to ensure the safety of people they are basically encouraging violence and giving a bad example of how to deal with things. The police also have a lot to deal with drugs and getting minorities behind bars. They are known to set up people and even go as far as to plant evidence in order to convict someone, and they are not able to fight back due to lack of knowledge and their position as a minority. Overall, I am writing this in the hopes of minorities being able to gain a bit of knowledge on the truth of what is happening and pick something up may it be how to fight back, or even making it so you become interesting to the point that you do your own research to further gain knowledge on what to do and become a voice who fights back and helps others

Dear Government,

Your corruption will not stop the people you are trying to suppress from fighting back. Throughout all of history there is always someone or even a group that fights back and stands for the people and eventually wins, so my goal of this message is to stop trying to suppress us and just accept that more change will come and there is nothing that can be done about that. In Transparency Internationals article “Corruption in the USA: The Difference a Year Makes”, the article speaks about key issues being how wealthy/rich individuals and companies pay those who who in the government in order to have an advantage over others. These individuals and companies pay these people in order to abuse their power over minorities and people who live in certain areas in order for those people or companies to gain more money or simply for the pleasure of it. According to the article throughout the Trump’s presidency it is said that this corruption has gotten much worse than it was before. There is also a chart which shows the percentages of which people/departments are the most corrupt to least corrupt. Also note that pretty much everyone in the government is corrupt to an extent. The only action the people are able to take is voting, but even then there are restrictions of voting on minorities and the suppression of their voices. The corruption of government officials is further spoken about in the article “USA Corruption Report” by GAN Integrity. The article is really good in going into detail about the different types of corruption and gives examples/events in when the corruption has taken place and etc. Thus, my point in this message was to inform the pain and suffering corruption has caused to minorities and seeing the actions and how far you have gone to suppress these people is disgusting and actually shows that you are in fact scared of what positive change minorities are capable of bringing. I also wanted to inform that there are those who have the knowledge and know what is truly going on, so prepare for there to be change.

References

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When we were put in groups to come up with a story based off a word/sentence showed my evolution as a writer. It’s easier to come up with your own ideas I believe rather than take something and turn it into something, but when I was in the group I already had something in my head surprisingly and everyone else contributed to their own ideas. Not only was I able to use or come up with a story, but I was able to put my ideas along with the members of my group in order to make it one whole thing. Then when we had to rotate with other groups and add on to theirs it made it even more intriguing seeing as in the beginning I don’t think I could have really seen myself doing such a thing where I was adding my ideas to others, rather than just using my own idea all the way through. So this made me a better writer because it allowed me to better understand multiple others thought process and how I would be able to add on to it without turning it into something that was not forced in a way.

My annotated bibliography reflection is another example of how I became a better writer. When reading my annotated bibliography I put myself in the shoes of a reader and wrote the reflection telling what I could have done better. Seeing as how I was able to recognize my problems and acknowledge what I should do and how to change that seems like a huge step in the direction of becoming a better writer. Many people find it hard to give themself feedback, but I think it helps being able to look at your writings or anything else through a different lense or point of view in order to not only become a better writer but person as well. Overall, I have improved with my writing looking at my reflection and being able to say what to do for next time and acknowledging the problems.

Final Reflection

Dear Professor Jewell,

I have definitely grown as a writer seeing as how I used any comments and such to improve any writing I have done and taken in anything that I could have done better and carrying that on to other writings/papers I do. Whether it be grammar, punctuation, details, or even discussing anything I believe I improved on. With the readings we have done in class along with the book that we bought with all the different articles and such, has definitely helped me to improve. These readings have helped me to improve because they are all different and unique due to the writing style, message, and even the origin of the author. Stories, articles, and such are so diverse and it is due to the author since it shows a unique side that we don’t see. It helps to show how special everyone is and how not everyone is the same in any way. You might be able to relate to someone but there are differences in the end. Seeing the different messages that the authors were trying to tell the audience for example Martin Luther King. This message helped me to become a better reader by sort of ‘dissecting’ it and trying to get a better understanding on what his goal was. The reading as well as writing ties well into the how I have improved when it comes to thinking. I have always been someone who is capable of coming up with interesting thoughts and such when it comes to topics that interest me or I feel strongly about. For me when I was writing the Research and Audience paper, I feel strongly on how those of color/immigrants are heavily oppressed due to their status. When I saw the type of paper we had to write I immediately thought of this topic and knew what I wanted to write, it just came down to the sources and such. Another great example was the Annotated Bibliography. It was a challenge to write, even the revision was pretty difficult for me to be honest. I enjoy mythology a lot and all the different types, but Greek mythology is what I started with and what I have always been interested in. This paper was heavily challenging due to the genre of sources there was and how limited of a topic it is. In my junior year of high school I had already learned of pathos, ethos, and logos, but this class helped me to further analyse the texts/articles to see what rhetoric(s) the author was using which has helped me to better understand how the author is trying to reach the audience and what shape/form. It has also helped me to see how authors want to send these messages depending on what they use. If an author is using logos they are mainly trying to get a message through to the audience using facts which may cause people to think or be related to a serious problem, while pathos appeals to emotion which a lot of sad movies or books and such use to make the audience feel a type of way towards someone or something. Rhetoric can be used to send many messages in different forms which is very interesting and has helped me to use these myself in writings in the future when speaking/writing to an audience. When it came to talks in class I very much enjoyed participating when I was there due to the topic being intriguing. I feel that these conversations helped me to improve when it came to speaking/thinking due to the nature of the questions and how my thought process works. Everyone thinks differently and comes to conclusions differently even if the way the conclusion was reached was different. It has helped me to think more when it comes to reading or writing. Whenever I read an article I always try to look at it in multiple perspectives, but I always end up coming to my own conclusion of what I believe may be true or whatever the article is based off of. Overall, this class has helped me improve massively when it came to this seeing as I am processing all that I have learned and going through all that and putting it into words makes me see how I have actually improved, and so I thank you for the challenge and feedback.

Sincerely,

Noah Smith