Devin Mekhuri

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I felt that the literacy narrative was a very good start for my first major assignment however I feel like there’s a lot I could’ve worked on. One thing that I changed in my essay was that I added a way that coming from another country could help me in English.

[**Literacy Narrative**](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/jewelle1101fall2019tth/category/literacy-narrative/)

Life is like a wave,It has its high points and it low points.During these low points you tend to experience failures and disappointments, however if you continue riding the wave the lessons we learn can lead to future success and prosperity.One personal experience that affected me is the challenge of starting a new school, especially when I came from a different country. For me it was like I was an alien arriving on a new planet.

I arrived to this new world in the summer and it was wonderful.I went to many places with my family and it was a fun adventure. Coming up to my last couple of weeks of summer, it crossed my mind that school was on its way. Then I realized the quote “time flies when you’re having fun” was true and school came around.I instantly became nervous.I was worried I would not fit in or be looked at differently.

On the first day of school, my mom walked me there and when I was walking it was like I was having a nervous breakdown. There were butterflies in my stomach and I could not stop talking about things like “what if I don’t fit in”, “ what if I make no friends” or even be alone. However when I got there it was completely different everyone was nice except for two girls that made fun of my accent.Which really didn’t make me feel that bad since that’s how I met my first friend.He stood up for me when they made fun of my accent and showed me around.

When I just thought I got over the hard part, class started.It was not what I expected.All my classes were insanely hard for me and it was completely different from my school in Guyana.I especially struggled in English a lot since in Guyana we spoke broken English.I had a hard time writing, reading and speaking it. When I got home I was so embarrassed to ask my family for help.Since that day my family sat down with me every day and helped me with my homework.When I gave up and didn’t want to do it they would motivate me.Even when I didn’t have homework they would find me some kind of book or call my teacher and tell them what I needed to work on.English was my weakness. Since my family knew this they signed me up for after school tutoring which I hated. This tutor was crazy ,she gave me so much work and was always pushing me to do more .However it helped, after a long month of blood and sweat, my grades improved.I didn’t need help from my family and now English is one of my favorite subjects.

The experience of the first time starting a new school taught me a lot of lessons and was a good experience. One way that coming from another country help me in English is that I had a different perspective on how I perceived writing and it helped me learn how to write things in a unique way.I learned that not everything new and different is bad.It also taught me that if I put my mind to something I can do anything. I turned my weakness of English into my strength.

**Civil Rights Motivational Speakers**

**Lincoln, Abraham. “The Gettysburg Address”**

The Gettysburg Address 260 words speech was about equality, freedom, and a national unity. beginning with the famous phrase, “Four score and seven years ago,” Lincoln honored the sacrifices American made for their Freedom from the British.“Four score and seven” is much more poetic and much more noble than “Eighty-seven”. This is fitting, because 87 years earlier, the United States had won its freedom from Britain and gave America independence. This was a great setup for the next sentence “Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.”since it questions the same principles the nation was founded on “all men are created equal”.then he said “The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.”This sentence respect for those who fought. It is show saying that their actions speak louder than words.To sum it up,Lincoln appeals to the audience by bringing up past events.

Source:Lincoln, Abraham. “The Gettysburg Address.” 1863. The Story of Abraham Lincoln, The National

**LBJ’s speech “We Shall Overcome”**

On March 16th, 1965, Lyndon Baines Johnson delivered his speech, “We Shall Overcome” in response to the controversy about black rights and black voter eligibility.Throughout the speech he talks about every person, no matter skin color, race, party, or beliefs, has equal rights.In the speech he repeat words to strengthen his power of persuasion. Such as “there is no,” “we must not,” “let each of us,” and “I want to be,” to add to his claim that all Americans deserve equal rights.He also uses words like “we” or “us,” so his audience is led to believe that they are agreeing with Johnson’s opinion.Johnson said the idea in which America was founded on “All men are created equal” to explain the term “all men” includes black men. He states “The issue of equal rights for American Negroes is such an issue,” making his audience question the idea that a black and a white man are different.So it makes the audience’s putting them in the shoes of an American black man with little rights.

Source:LYNDON B. JOHNSON, “WE SHALL OVERCOME” (15 MARCH 1965)

**Mather Luther king “I Have A Dream”**

“I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most memorable and famous speeches of all time.It was about hope for a future America where blacks and whites will sit and live together. “It is a world in which children will no longer be judged by their skin color and where black and white alike will join hands”.It was a public speech by American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington for Freedom on August 28, 1963.In Martin luther speech he uses a lot of Repetition to emphasize his points.If you count the frequency of words used in King’s “I Have a Dream”,you will notice a pattern. The most commonly used word is freedom, which is used twenty times in the speech. This makes sense, since freedom is one of the important themes of the speech.Other words or phrases that were repeated a lot was we, us, nation, america, justice and dream.These are all words that have Significant value to Martin Luther King I Have a Dream speech.Since Martin Luther King used these words to help develop his ideas of a better world and make the speech more memorable.MLK also use famous people to help reenforce him speech.You can improve the credibility of your arguments by referring to the words of credible speakers or writers in your speech.

Source:Martin Luther king “I Have A Dream” August 28, 1963

**Malcolm X ”Learning To Read”**

Malcolm X was a very influential and power speaker during the civil rights movement. He is a self educated spokesman of the blacks community.His craving to get education made him what he is known for today, a powerful and influential speaker in the Black American society. Malcolm X believed that blacks can only achieve independence if they distance themselves from the Whites. Malcolm portrays a heartfelt tone throughout his article “Learning to Read.” In the beginning of his he conveys that he was feeling “envy towards others’ stock of knowledge.” With his passion towards education Malcolm X feel like he opened up a new world.he said that he “had never been so truly free,“ even when he was in prison at the time still.Malcolm X tone has shifted from more of a positive passion to a negative passion when talking about the history of black men.He show this by talking about how wrong the history was about pick dominant skin color.Towards the end of “Learning to Read” Malcolm X had the same strong passion about knowledge.Learning have help him study more intensively, and helped change the course of history.

Source:Malcolm X ”Learning To Read” May 19, 1925

**Mahatma Gandhi “Quit India”**

Gandhi is one of the world’s most influential human rights activists of his time. In his speech, Gandhi called for the peaceful of both groups. They were pushed to realize that they were Indians first and Muslims and Hindus second. As a result, members of each group temporarily put their differences aside and together took a stand against the British.Gandhi was the leader of the movement for India’s independence from British rule which the British refused to give at first. At the time the speech was given, there were rising tensions between the two religious groups. There was tension between the two groups due to their different beliefs and ideas. Members of each group temporarily put their differences aside and together took a stand against the British. “Quit India” speech focuses mostly on Indian audience and people around the world empathy with his political freedom and human rights movement.Since there was many civil rights activists at this time it makes it easier for india to push for independence.

source: Mahatma Gandhi “Quit India” 8 August 1942

**Legalization Of Marijuana**

**In New York**

Legalization of marijuana in New York is one of the most controversial topics right now.Many people want to make sure that marijuana stays illegal. Yet they do not know all the facts about marijuana.They just think that marijuana is bad.I believe that marijuana should be made legal.According to dictionary, “marijuana refers to the dried leaves and flowers of the cannabis plant, which contain the narcotic chemical THC at various potencies.”It is smoked or eaten to produce the feeling of being "high". Marijuana has been used for thousands of years for medical, social, relaxation, and religious reasons.

Over 20 million Americans still smoke marijuana. You can say that marijuana affects your health, but marijuana is less dangerous than tobacco and people smoke less of it at a time. Or you can eat the plant instead of smoking it, which can lower health risks by a lot. Another way to reduce health risks is by reducing smoking amounts. There is no proof that marijuana causes health problems that can lead to death or sexual programs, but like alcohol, it is not recommended for children or teenagers to use. This is simply because children and teenagers are in the process of growing up, and it would not be a good idea to smoke anything or drink alcohol. “Cannabis is a medical herb that has literally hundreds of proven, valuable therapeutic uses.” For example, you can use marijuana for stress reduction, asthma, cancer therapy, and much more. Marijuana is not just for getting "high", but a valuable medical medicine.

One reason marijuana should be legalized is the medical benefits of marijuana.According to medical news today, Chronic pain is a leading cause of disability, affecting more than [25 million adults](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4562413/) and marijuana help relieve chronic pain.There is some evidence to suggest that marijuana might help the symptoms of social [anxiety](https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/info/anxiety/), [bipolar disorder](https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/37010.php) and [psychosis](https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/248159.php).

Recreational Marijuana is the biggest reason marijuana is legalized in many states.Over 94 million people in the US have admitted using it at least once and that more than 33 million adults identified as current still a marijuana users. Marijuana is said to have many uses as healing drug. Marijuana being used as a medicine has been studied for many years. In many cultures it is used as medicine.According to “ history of marijuana” the first recorded use of marijuana as medicine was in China.” It has been said that in Pen Tsao Ching during the first or second century, boiled hemp compound was used as an anesthetic for surgical patients.” The compound is said to have many uses including”, clearing the blood, cooling temperature, clearing fluxes, undoing rheumatism and discharging pus from patients.” China isn't the only country to use this drug in early times. Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam are said to have current uses of marijuana for medicine. In Cambodia they have an enormous list of uses, including, treating malaria, relieving asthma, calming the nerves, regulating the heart and treating paralysis.Marijuana has survived the passing of time and still helps the sick today. The advanced stages of treatment for patients with Cancer, AIDS and other diseases often include, terrible nausea, vomiting, and different types of pain. Patients have reported much relief from marijuana.Marijuana should be legal for Recreational uses in the united states since it has so many benefits for Recreational uses.

Also legalizing marijauna benefit the economy by heavily taxing it and open more jobs. In 2015, Colorado collected more than $135 million in taxes and fees on medical and recreational marijuana. Sales in the state totaled over $996 million. “Sales in North America grew 30%, to $6.7 billion, in 2016, and is projected to increase to $20.1 billion by 2021, according to Arcview Market Research.Recreational marijuana in the state could support over 41,000 jobs till 2024 and generate over $1.7 billion in labor income.” The ICF study estimates at least 81,000 additional direct, indirect and induced jobs in California as a result of legalized marijuana sales.”These would not only create jobs but also be great for economic activity in the pot industry in these areas.Currently, federal marijuana enforcement costs several billion dollars per year. A 2013 report by the American Civil Liberties Union found that the costs at that time were approximately $3.6 billion per year.So the government will save a lot of money and can focus on putting that money to better use.

To sum it all up,marijuana should be legalized.Since it benefit the economy by producing Jobs,Saved Money and Tax Revenue that the government can use.Also cannabis can help many people who are using it for recreational uses.

**Website**

**.Investopedia-**Pros and Cons of Legalizing Marijuana in the U.S**.**

**.We are the drug policy alliance-**Marijuana Legalization and Regulation

**.The Motley Fool**-5 Economic Reasons to Legalize Marijuana

**.Thought go**-Should Governments Legalize and Tax Marijuana?

Dear Professor Jewell,

The past couple of months I had spent in the class have been very eye opening for me and taught me a lot.Your teaching really helped me grow as a writer, reader and thinker.The first major assignment you assigned us was the literacy narrative which in my opinion was the most interesting assignment out of all.We got to share our personal experiences with limited English skills.I learned how to reflect on personal experiences to gain a better understanding of who am.In this personal experience I learned how to tell an interesting story about my past I have learn and grow from. In this writing piece I explain my experience of moving to a new country and starting his new school.Taught me very valuable life lessons like If I put my mind to it and work hard you can do anything and not everything new and different is bad. This was very eye-opening experience because it helps me face challenges with a more motivational attitude and push harder when I am in a struggle or hardship. The next major assignment was my [Annotated Bibliograph](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/jewelle1101fall2019tth/category/annotated-bibliography/)y which we had to choose a genre and make analysis of six different sources of the same genre we chose. My annotated bibliography was about inspirational and motivational speeches.This was my first choice because I was always inspired by how these people took a stand up for what they believe in and made such a great change by just using words.I was always bad at pupil speaking so this I one thing I always wanted to improve in.When you think about motivational speeches Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Gandhi is the first thing many people think of so that’s why I wrote about them.Martin Luther King speech was the most memorable and famous speeches of all time and gave hope for a future America where blacks and whites will sit and live together. I believe the speech sparked inspiration for many other motivational speakers to come out and take a stand for they believe in.Like Malcolm X his craving to get education made him what he is known for today,a very powerful speaker during the civil rights movement and was a very amazing writer.Also you can forget Gandhi one of the world’s most influential human rights activists of his time.Gandhi was such an influential person who temporarily stop religious war against the Muslims and Hindus to put their differences aside and stand together to fight the British. The last major assignment we did was a research paper which I had a lot of fun writing. I did my research paper on marijuana Kurt because I have always been interested in seeing what marijuana is really about. From my research I believe that marijuana has been having a bad reputation from its past and many people don’t know the full extent of what it can really do for our future generations if it’s legal. Researchers have already found many ways in which marijuana can be used for beneficial things like modern medicine and recreational use and if it was legal there would be more ways in which you can use it.

I would like to thank you for being my teacher and being there for me whenever I need help or if I have a question related to the class assignments.And in my honest opinion you were the only teacher that really cared about the students and if they don’t you will sit down and try your best to explain and make it clear.

Sincerely,

Devin Mekhuri.