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ENG 1101 CO LC44

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Rough Draft Education Narrative

Tagged

*“This means dumb. If you don’t want this scenario to happen again, study as hard as you can. If you can’t totally understand the language of the country where you live, what is the difference between those people who are deaf, blind, and you?” --- Uncle Li*

*“My homemade education gave me, with every additional book that I read, a little bit more sensitivity to the deafness, dumbness, and blindness that was afflicting the black race in America.” –Malcolm X*

When I walked into my ESL classroom at PS 131 in Lower Manhattan, I was 13 years old, in sixth grade. I had just come to America and got placed in a bilingual classroom for Chinese students who speak English as a Second Language (ESL). All the kids in the room were Chinese. I heard someone say “Ni hao” ( which means Hello ). I sat right next to him and tried to make friends with him because I’m new to this country. Instantly, I felt a sort of connection between me and the kid who was speaking my native language. In general, it's nervous because it was my first day at an American school.

The classroom was very crowded with many students seated in chairs. Since it was the first day, everyone was paying attention. It was quiet that I could hear the clock spinning on the top of the black board until my teacher started to announce an activity and distribute sticky notes. She wanted us to write down our name, age, and hobby, just so she could understand more about us. I felt stressed then I started sweating at that moment because of my poor English, but the kid that was sitting next to me translated for me. Later on, I asked him, “How do you say, ‘我不懂’’(I don’t know) in English?" I wrote down what I heard from him: ‘I dong know'. This was the closest way I could write “I don’t know” in English. I couldn't identify the errors with my limited English language skills, but this looked correct to me. Then I handed in my work.

During the class lesson, I was looking down at my notebook because I couldn’t understand and I felt bored. My sight was constantly switching between the clock above the blackboard and the teacher. I was hoping the class would end soon. Suddenly, my classmates looked at me and laughed a little bit, and then I was confused. So I started laughing a little with them for no reason. Actually I don't have a clue what they were laughing at, but it was a moment I felt I belonged to a group.

After class, as soon as I walked out of the school. I felt other kids staring at me and laughing, but I didn’t know why. I kept turning my head back. I heard kids laughing behind me. I wondered what they were laughing at. Is it my shoes, sweatpants or hoodies ? Or my appearance? Do they want to bully me? These questions kept flushing into my mind. I felt the situation was kind of odd. The school kids were talking to me, but I didn’t understand what they were saying.

I felt scared, so I just started running as fast as I could toward my apartment. My heart was beating, my sweat dripping down my jaw. My apartment is eight blocks away from my school. I had just arrived in the United States two months ago, so I couldn't find the exact way to go home. Fortunately, there is a church near my apartment, with a large cross on the top. The cross leads me to my home.

As I was running, my uncle Li saw me and shouted out my name, “Fan!” I recognized his voice; it felt like a relief from anxiety. “What is this?” he said. He grabbed me by the wrist and then peeled off sticky notes from my backpack. At that moment, I realized what all the laughing was about. I hadn’t felt anyone tapping my back. Somebody might have stuck it on my back with a soft touch.

Staring at the sticky note, my uncle understood right away. He said, “This word means ‘dumb.’ If you don’t want this scenario to happen again, study as hard as you can. If you can’t totally understand the language of a country that you are living in, what is the difference between people who are deaf, blind, and you?" At that moment, it didn’t hurt so much because I couldn't recognize the word “stupid.” That was the very first insult I learned in English. I felt depressed for learning something new in this way.

On the way home, I remained silent. I kept thinking about it until I closed my eyes while I was on my bed. Were they laughing at my skin color? Or my poor English? Therefore, I made some changes after that day by carrying an English- to- Chinese dictionary with me. The purpose of using a bilingual dictionary is I want to learn English in a direct way and strengthen my Chinese.

In high school, using my bilingual dictionary, I wrote Chinese definitions under every unfamiliar word. As my vocabulary increased, I began to understand more lessons in other classes. In my social studies class, I learned about stereotypes of Chinese in the 18 century: a skinny man with a half-bald skull and a long braid in his back, who often can’t properly speak English and earns the lowest hourly rate. Later in the 21 century, the Chinese stereotype changed and they became seen as intelligent in math but still, they lacked physical potential and power. Stereotypes make me, as well as other groups of people suffer.

A few weeks ago in my college English class, I was reading Malcolm X’s “Prison Studies.” This brought me back to that day when I was a 13 year old kid in middle school. Malcolm X’s words are related to me because they remind me of every step in my educational journey.

From Malcolm X's thoughts I understand how being unable to read and write hurts his people. *“My homemade education gave me, with every additional book that I read, a little bit more sensitivity to the deafness, dumbness, and blindness that was afflicting the black race in America.” –Malcolm X*

I felt the same hurt when I saw people in my Chinese community being kept behind by their lack of English speaking skills. In my Chinese neighbors, I see the pain of being illiterate in America. They often work in the back of the kitchen. They had a blank resume. They know a few words but can't combine them into sentences. Also, I see the pain of being “deaf, blind,” in my own mother’s life in America because her language was limited. I must take her around on the subway, read mail for her, and I answer calls for her.

I am the victim of this stereotype. People think I’m good at math for no reason. So a math teacher will have high expectations of Chinese students, but I actually have average math abilities, and I am an average math student, doing normally in every other subject like an average student is supposed to do.

PART TWO

*“Do you want to go to college? Because you didn't pass your test there will be fewer options of course for you. Or do you want to spend one more year in another program called CUNY Start? !” - Ms. R*

*“Where else but in prison could I have attacked my ignorance by being able to study intensely, sometimes as much as fifteen hours a day” - Malcolm X.*

Ten years later, I have now graduated from International High School at Union Square. I am in Brooklyn, in another City Tech building attending the CLIP (the CUNY Language Immersion Program). The CLIP environment is like a battlefield with people from different ethnicities. Students study eight hours per day. Their classwork is their trenches and their pens are their weapons, to kill every essay. Students must complete one essay each week, 1000 words.

Every day was so busy that I couldn't even bite my sandwich in a 15-minute break. I couldn’t see the lights of my future. I didn’t even know the purpose of doing classwork because I just wanted to take the final test, which I had not passed in the previous fall. At first, I found the classwork helpful, but then it got boring and I felt like I was reading constantly. I often fall asleep somehow during the class process. I can’t leave and I am not interested in it but I have to be there. It seems like a jail to me. Due to the lack of studying even though I thought I was prepared, in fact, I am not. I still had problems with punctuation and sentence structure.

I took the test at the end of the semester, and I was waiting for the result from Ms.R. She spoke to me, and I was expecting good news. Instead what I heard was *“Do you want to go to college? Because you didn't pass your test. There will be fewer options. Do you want to spend one more year in another program called CUNY Start? ”*

At that moment. I consider myself a piece of rotten wood, without spirit, but her words ignited me. My teacher told me she’s doubling my potential in handling college work, by asking me these questions but I was in a hurry to pass the test. Her words ignited rotten wood in my mind and it made me want to prove myself. So I participate in one more semester, by doing homework and classwork and I study a lot about writing a long article. I work so hard because I really want to pass the test. I appreciate her for motivating me. As a result, I passed the writing test.

Just like Malcolm said, *“Where else but in prison could I have attacked my ignorance by being able to study intensely sometimes as much as fifteen hours a day” In* my situation, Clip was my prison. It's a perfect environment for me to adjust my attitude towards work. This is a large progress in my educational journey. I changed my dictionary to an English dictionary. It's a proof of my vocabulary advance by reading the definition of the words.

In “Prison Studies” by Malcolm X, he states that the prison environment helped him to be more focused on his studies. In the last sentence, he said *“Where else but in prison could I have attacked my ignorance by being able to study intensely sometimes as much as fifteen hours a day”* which proves he appreciated being able to study in jail.

In this case, his knowledge expands by self studying in prison. He saw many negative parts of black history. He said, *“My homemade education gave me, with every additional book that I read, a little bit more sensitivity to the deafness, dumbness, and blindness that was afflicting the black race in America.”* The stereotype was limiting our possibilities. For example, from my own observation fewer Chinese students were participating in writing courses. As I read articles I can feel how important it is to read, listen and think. Even though the image I gathered from my class was a fabricated Asian impression, I can see the impact on Asian students. They were tagged.

Unit 2

**My research question is: How** has the pandemic changed education for the better?

**Introduction**

Since students are all participating in online learning because of the pandemic, I am curious about students' learning progress and process. Even though Covid creates a new way of learning that has many inconveniences, I think online learning is more effective than face-to-face school.

I participated in remote learning this fall and because I am an ESL student, it’s really hard for me to speak in a physical classroom. I would probably lose my confidence somehow while I speak because I am in fact an introverted person. Meanwhile, because I am introverted, it’s difficult for me to socialize.

Of course there are obvious disadvantages. I knew that students might find it difficult to participate or stay focused in the Zoom classroom. Also, it’s difficult to get face-to-face help especially when you have a question about a topic or subject. There will be some delay in answering or asking questions. Some points I plan to explore and find out more about are how online learning has changed student participation, student grade outcomes, student responsibility. What are new ways of learning or teaching during the pandemic that are positive and have worked well and that will continue even when we return to the classroom?

**Source Entry #1**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

Harris, Elizabeth A. “Not Everyone Hates Remote Learning. For These Students, It's a Blessing.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 20 May 2020, https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/20/nyregion/coronavirus-students-schools.html?searchResultPosition=10.

**Part 2 Summary**

In Elizabeth Harris’s NYT article “Not Everyone Hates Remote Learning. For These Students, It's a Blessing''. She makes the argument that remote learning benefits in certain ways. An eighth-grade student, Salah-Deen Founthia who used to have a hard time paying attention in the physical classroom discovered that remote learning helped him to pay more attention. Founthia said, “It’s just like one-on-one tutoring directly from the teacher.”

Harris explains that some students still experience difficulties. Participation is hard because they do not have tablets, devices, and reliable internet at home. She claims that students can’t socialize as usual and vulnerable students might not be able to keep up. But, Harris also believes, conversely, that On the contrary, some students can take advantage of online learning. There are several benefits for teenage students to study online, such as avoiding distraction and annoying classmates, avoiding bullying, working at their own pace, and taking breaks when students need to. The introverted students can speak because they are in an environment that causes less anxiety.

Educators say this way of learning provides another option for motivated students, some kind of hybrid mode. This mode benefits visual learners, because the information can be demonstrated in multiple ways. If the student were studying something very complex and difficult such as the Pythagorean theorem, the teacher can record the class process so that the student can watch it back and forth. Parents also claim benefits saying that it is easier for them to keep an eye on their child's assignments.

**Part 3A Reflection**

I agree with the information that Harris presents because I am also participating in online courses. Therefore, my experience is reflected in the article. Online classes enable me to work at my own pace. An introverted person like me can speak with more confidence during online courses: I can also review recorded math classes before the exam.I agree with the eighth grade student, “It’s just like one-on-one tutoring” directly from the teacher because the black board is on your screen. Furthermore, if you get tired during class, you can even lay down on your bed or sofa for a few minutes and that is impossible to do in school.

Reading this article was like a vindication. It is related to me. I felt like my inner thoughts were being validated that online studying might be a good thing. Meanwhile, this source tells me that remote studying works in a great way with certain students, especially for those who can’t participate in the physical classroom. So, online learning was effective for some students but not the majority. I selected this source because I was curious about the consequences of how a pandemic affected students' learning status. Before the pandemic people got an idea of what online learning was but it’s not a requirement to be processed and later on enforced by the education department. Therefore, I really wanted to know how it affects students of all ages and the benefits it brings to the student or the inconveniences it influences.

**Part 3B Rhetorical Analysis**

Harris accurately expresses her discoveries that inspire you to consider both sides of the argument.. The specific examples or quotes from either the student and the educator which are reliable and persuasive. Harris's purpose is to list some benefits of online studying, which were affected by the pandemic. The intended audience might be students, teachers, and parents. This article might have changed their point of view on online studying a little bit. It’s effective because she was finding the advantages of remote learning from the quote and different students she heard of who had improved since the online course started. Harris wants to be sincere so people believe her, and she can persuade more individuals. Harris is credible because she was a NY Times reporter since 2009, who has covered education, retail companies for the business section. Her work has been honored with awards from the New York Press Club and the Silurians Press Club.

**Part 4: Notable Quotables**

“At home, it seems to be a bit easier to focus on all the work I’m getting and it’s almost like we’re one on one with the teacher,” Salah-Deen said.

“When they’re learning the Pythagorean theorem, why not give them some multimedia that they can go backward and forward and watch over and over?

**Source Entry# 2**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

Darby, Flower. “Never Waste a Good Crisis: What to Keep from Pandemic Teaching Strategies.” *THE Campus/Part of Time Higher Education*, 6 Oct. 2021, https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/never-waste-good-crisis-what-keep-pandemic-teaching-strategies.

**Part 2 Summary**

Dducator Flower Darby expressed straight to teachers in “Never Waste a Good Crisis: What to Keep from Pandemic Teaching Strategies.” She states that we should not waste the crisis that we have just been through, teachers must keep some method of online learning and continue to use technology as a learning platform even after returning to the school. The teacher remembers the function of every teaching software or website so if students return to the classroom they can be more prepared and find a different way to gain knowledge. Teachers can assign pre-class reading quizzes online before they come to class and students can create a chatting room just to communicate. Some Kids explain very clearly, especially in peer-to-peer conversation. Through online platforms, teachers can announce upcoming deadlines, give a little bit of motivation using encouraging words. A strategy that teachers should maintain is to keep checking with students more frequently to see how they are doing or their understanding of class materials. If we keep using our software and tools, students can participate anywhere in the world. The teachers should keep those technology-enabled strategies to support students.

**Part 3A Reflection**

I agree with the information Darby provides in “Never Waste a Good Crisis: What to Keep from Pandemic Teaching Strategies.” because there should be some benefits of online learning that a physical classroom can’t cover, such as mobility, flexibility, and functionality. I also believe that the way of teaching will affect students very much. Darby wants to mention that innovation in a crisis should not be abandoned. Teachers must take advantage of websites and software. Teachers might gain strategies that form a hybrid, convenient, modern way of teaching which is more effective for the student. I selected this source because I was curious about what would change education. Meanwhile, what is the teacher's reaction to online studying?

**Part 3B Rhetorical Analysis**

Darby is speaking in the video informing the educator and parents, inspiring students. The purpose of this video is to provide a general proposal on what teachers can keep after the pandemic in order to support their students better. The genre is video recording. Darby wants to share her thoughts in a professional talk, sort of like a zoom meeting. Darby is an inclusive teaching scholar at Northern Arizona University. Therefore her point of view was considerable.

**Part 4: Notable Quotables**

“We know that sometimes students can explain concepts more effectively to each other through a peer-to-peer instruction process. The online discussion forum, when we structure that with carefully nuanced and crafted questions, can be a great way to support student learning from and with each other.”

“Now another strategy that we want to hold on to as we return to the classroom is to check in with students more frequently. If we were teaching in Zoom during the pandemic, many of us adopted the use of Zoom polls or surveys or similar kinds of informal, even anonymous ways of checking in with students to see how they’re doing with understanding class material, to check in with them socially or informally as well. And students are asking us to continue that.”

**Source Entry #3: Interview with my friend Jia En Chen**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

Jia En, Chen, [Cunyfirst hybrid class student]. Personal Interview via Discord. Queens, NY and Manhattan, NY 17 Nov 2021.

**Part 2 Summary**

Jia En is a CLIP (which is a Cuny academic program) student and he took both online courses on Monday & Wednesday and in-person courses on Tuesday & Thursday. Therefore I interviewed him for the advantages and disadvantages of both being in the classroom and learning remotely. Jia En illustrates his experience of interacting in two modes by taking online and in-person classes. Jia En said “It’s very easy to lose attention during physical classes, I need to drink some red bull or coffee to stay focused.” Jia En says online learning is different and he is able to stay focused: “It’s very quiet in my room, so I can read and study without distraction.” Furthermore, he told me that he is currently living in Queens but his physical classroom is in upper Manhattan near W. 125th Street. Therefore he felt more convenient about saving the commute time to school and getting more sleep. (By reading the article “[Sleep, Learning, and Memory](https://healthysleep.med.harvard.edu/healthy/matters/benefits-of-sleep/learning-memory)” Students need time to sleep, in order to remember new information they have learned. Also, he discovered that he could stay focused in his room with less distraction. He gave some examples of being interrupted during in-person class lessons such as hearing the vehicle drive by, chatting about hip-hop music by whispering with his classmate. Moreover, as an ESL speaker, Jia En and his classmates feel more comfortable speaking in online courses with less anxiety and familiar environment. If other students make fun of him, he won’t even realize it and he won’t feel anxiety. When the ESL students were participating in the in-person classroom they seemed to be shy to speak and they had to deal with the social pressure. Jia En thinks staying in a comfortable and familiar home place for class will help him stay focused, and he doesn’t have to eat outside with expensive lunch costs.

**Part 3a Reflection**

I agree with Jia En’s points on remote learning and sometimes I feel the same way. I am an introverted ESL student so it’s hard for me to socialize and speak during class but online learning avoids socializing and reduces nervousness for me.

When I was participating in math courses I was able to look at solving steps then take a screenshot and it’s different from a physical classroom. In a physical classroom I have to copy what the teacher is writing in order to keep up and as the lecture becomes more difficult the teacher will use the whole blackboard. So the information sometimes messes up, especially when I am taking notes and it’s hard for me to comprehend. Remote learning avoids this problem because of the screenshot and recorded lecture. These are very helpful for students.

**Part 3b Rhetorical Analysis**

The interview was a conversation between us. I was able to relate him to previous resources I found, and they pretty much demonstrated all the advantages that remote study contains. I chose to interview Jia En because he was participating in online and in-person classes at the same time, therefore I was curious about his experience.

**Part 4 Notable Quotable**

“ I can stay focused in my room with less distraction”

“When they were participating in-person classroom they seemed to be shy to speak and they had to deal with the social pressure.”

CONCLUSION

In my research, I discovered some benefits of remote learning. Such as students concentrating and speaking frequently in a comfortable environment, students may access recorded courses before the exam. I am surprised that I could find articles and videos about the advantages of remote learning because people think it is terrible. Now I understand why people hate online learning and how some people benefit from it. My learning on this topic is important because the majority of people don’t appreciate remote study during and after the pandemic. My studies give some ideas that might inspire some people. They might be educators and students. They need to know about my research before they consider which modes are more effective for them. Moreover, educators can extract the advantages of both modes and forge a new way of teaching so that students can comprehend better. If the teacher can record their lecture on video. Then, the students can participate and learn in any period of time to fit their schedule. Which can be a better way to study and it’s more convenient.

Final Letter Assignment Unit 3

December 1, 2021

Outline

Intro

1. Identification
2. Problem, crisis.
3. Solution
4. The purpose of writing this letter

Body

1. Current situation
2. Opposite ideas, reverse
3. Research
4. Connection between me & topic

Conclusion

1. Urge
2. Provides solutions

Online learning should be an option

To the Student Government Association.

Dear Student governor

As a CUNY student who is currently participating in online courses, I can feel the effectiveness of online learning and the convenience it brings to me. I knew that the majority of students think online learning can’t represent a physical learning experience. Due to the COVID effects and the Omicron virus that was discovered recently, we can’t make sure when our campus is going to open again. Therefore we have to find a solution to this hybrid mode and prepare for the next quarantine remote learning. Meanwhile, I think online learning is good for several students in certain situations. The purpose of writing this letter is to express what I think about remote learning. It’s important because most people have a bad impression of it and I wanted to argue about it. What I wanted to express is that online learning might be bad but there are some benefits we can apply after turning to the campus and the conveniences it brings that we can’t deny.

During the effect of the pandemic in 2021. I participated in the online courses. I realize several disadvantages of remote learning such as students won’t be able to socialize, as usual, students asking & answering questions with delays, students can’t hand in their homework without that realistic pressure that teachers give in physical classrooms. They are shy to put their selfie; they use other images to represent themselves. So are there any advantages to remote learning? I believed yes. The pandemic seems to push the progress of online studying and it makes education better.

In an NYtimes article, I discovered the benefits of remote learning provided and organized by a reporter. She interviewed several eighth grade students in her article. By reading through the situation of each kid, I figured out the benefits of remote learning. Online classrooms help introverted kids to speak in comfort, helping students avoid distraction from peers or vehicles on the street, students will gain the ability to study individually with recorded classes and materials, Students will be able to save commuting time to the school and the school will have more empty spaces on the campus. The reason why I wanted to say this is because I am currently participating in online courses and this is also the project that I have to research. It’s obvious that online learning has its advantages and it does not work for everybody. But we can’t get rid of options about remote learning.



Online Learning Environment With Camera On

I suggest providing online courses as an option because it did work for some students and it’s more like a future way of learning. If we have to cancel online classes after the pandemic, at least we can be proficient in writing in WORD, and PDF files. We can’t forget the gain after the pain, then the pain will be pointless. We have to keep online learning as an option for students that have a higher GPA because they have proof that they got responsibility for completing their work. Therefore, they should have the right to choose their own schedule and work at their own pace.

Sincerely, I hope this helps

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Very good work. I especially note the improvements in the Ed. Narrative. Very good revision!

Good vocabulary improvement too throughout this portfolio.