

Kelvin Jarama

ENG1101

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Final Reflection & Portfolio

Final Reflection

As I reflect on my academic journey, the shift from high school to college has been a testament to my personal and intellectual growth. Initially, as a high school freshman, I navigated the vast sea of knowledge with wide-eyed curiosity, grappling with challenges such as time management and study habits. Now, in my first semester of college, I observe a transformed mindset. I've moved from the simple task of putting together five sentences to considering a paragraph as a unique representation in my writing. Freshman year taught me resilience and perseverance, becoming the foundation for the challenges of higher education. It also showed me that an essay can be concise or lengthy, ranging from three paragraphs to nine pages. My high school achievements, including annotated bibliographies and papers on topics like drug cartels and the presidential campaign of Barack Obama, now seem like stepping stones toward a deeper understanding of my academic pursuits. College coursework has demanded a higher level of critical thinking and independent analysis. Collaborative projects, like class discussions and group reviews, have emphasized the imperfection of my work—a tree that grows with the help of others. Diverse academic exposures have expanded my worldview, empowering me to engage in discussions that transcend the boundaries of my freshman year. Looking back, each academic endeavor, from assignments to tests, has contributed to the progress of my identity as a writer.

The journey from high school to college has been transformative, shaping not only my academic prowess but also my character and outlook on future opportunities.

Reflecting on the evolution of my vocabulary and writing style, the beginning of the semester was challenging. I initially felt compelled to use fancy words that didn't make sense, attempting to sound smarter. However, I now recognize these efforts as early steps in finding a writing style that suits my expression of thoughts and feelings. Exposure to diverse genres, cultures, and perspectives has allowed me to experiment with different writing styles. Words have burgeoned, transforming my prose from plain to vibrant, with synonyms and figurative language adding layers of richness to my projects. In this journey from simplicity to complexity, I've cultivated not just a repository of words but a refined palette of expression. Each paragraph has become a canvas, where I, as a writer, apply language with increasing finesse, crafting a unique style that invites readers into a world where words resonate with captivating beauty. A realization during my Unit 3 project, where I drew a sketch unrelated to previous research, highlighted the artistic and creative aspect of my writing. The subway surfer's street art design serves as a dynamic prelude, capturing the scenery and theme I aimed to present. As the colors and lines transition seamlessly, the canvas transforms into a poignant narrative—a portrayal of an immigrant father and daughter entering New York City. Their journey unfolds from a bland and desolate desert to a vibrant background, depicting a lost blue shade turning into a hopeful purple tone with the city skyline embedded in the colors. The subway surfer's grim feeling is replaced by the father's determination, and the horizon becomes a sudden change, like a cliff where one's world instantly shifts without a bridge for a smooth transition.

In conclusion, my first semester of college has marked profound growth as a reader and writer. As a reader, I explored diverse genres and literary styles, expanding my literary palate beyond familiar territories. Engaging with new perspectives and writers through daily quotes sharpened my analytical skills and deepened my understanding of narratives. Simultaneously, as a writer, I witnessed a transformation in articulating thoughts with clarity and sophistication. Feedback from peers and instructors supported my refinement of ideas. Overall, the first semester has been a crucible of growth, molding me into a more adept and confident reader and writer.

Unit 1

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2023d420mw10am/2023/10/19/kelvin-jarama-u1-education-narrative-essay/>

Unit 2

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2023d420mw10am/2023/11/09/kelvin-jarama-u2-reflective-annotated-bibliography/>

Unit 3

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2023d420mw10am/2023/12/07/kelvin-jarama-part-12-of-u3-writing-assignment/>

