



Bright Side Of The Pandemic

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Final Reflection

Creative Writing was a class I did not have much thoughts about it before registering, but I knew it was going to be heavily on writing assignments. The reason for taking this course is to improve my writing because in my current career I'm obligated to send out multiple emails a day. I know that writing is a reflection of myself, and I would like to be appreciation for my work. However, I felt that I improved my reading and writing in this course. I learned to writing story stories in the third person, and using nonfiction and fictional characters and also fictional and non-fictional places. From our short reading in this course, I was able to see how authors can use their creative imagination to put together an entraining story. In this Creative Writing course I will compare and contrast class works from earlier in the semester to now, talk about my favorite assignment, peer feedback, I see the changes in my writing as genres changes, lesson I learned that stuck to me and how my believes change from the beginning to this course till now.

During this semester in my creative writing course, a lot of assignment's goal stood the same, and some of the assignment changed as we moved towards the end of the semester. All our short stories are based on your own life experiences. I did not have to do independent research to complete our writing assignment. Also, the more you used your imaginations the more entraining stories you will have. Making up a setting place and make up characters I felt my stories was enjoyable to read. However, some stuff did change from the beginning to now which made our short stories better. We told our life experience from a 1st person and rewrote it to 3rd person. Lastly, we learn to write short stories, poems and dialogue. From the beginning to now of our creative writing course we able to have taken advantage of the similar and difference in this course to write successful short stories, poems and dialogue.

One of my favorite writing during this course, and I felt it was one of my best work is 'The Buzzing Forest Park'. This assignment is based on a place that we visited during the prime months of COVID-19. The place I visited was Forest Park on a long 3-mile run throughout the park. I used my personal experiences from my run wrote it in a 3rd person. I was able used what I observed around me and what going through my mind, so my character sounds as real as possible. Also, as much as I hate running this assignment shows me the benefits of all the beautiful sights, people action and how it can actually clear my mind. This assignment was definite something I never did before, but it actually became my favorite writing.

Peer feedback was something else we did in this course which is beneficial to all students. Getting peer feedback from my peers actually help me to clarified my writing. Sometimes I tend to write and make assumption that reader will understand my writing, but peer feedback makes me fixed my writing by clarified my statements. When it came to myself reviewing my peer, I felt it was a good time to help them improve on their paper. This also gave me ideas on what I can do to improve my paper myself. Lastly, peer feedback was a good way to know your classmate over the internet. I'm

able to see what type of personality my peers have during the review. Peer feedback is definitely something that should be used in other course because no matter how much you read your own paper, we tend to miss our own mistakes.

From the beginning of the class to now, as the genres changed so did my writing. I learn to write short stories other than research paper. I learn to use my imagination, and have reader understand what is going through my mind from a 3rd person perspective. Also, as the type of reading changed, I'm able to grab some strategy from other authors about made up setting or character to write a more enjoyable story. Also, the change in the reading assignments help me to come to a realization that you can have successful stories without the author being the main character. I definitely believe the change of genres help me a lot to write better stories.

Also, there are multiple things I learn throughout this course that stuck to me for the best. I learn you can be a creative writer by using your own life experiences. Next, I learn that not every autobiography has to be in the first person. You can actually tell the autobiography by changing the setting to make it more enjoyable. Also, two short story that stuck to me are the 'The Wife's Story' and 'Child First Day' because this a great example how the characters have nothing to do with the author and made the reader open their imagination. The 'The Wife's Story' the narrator was a wolf telling the story, and the "Child First Day" was a 5-6 years old telling a story. Lesson I learn during this course makes me want to read more enjoyable short stories.

My believe of this Creative Writing changed from the beginning to now. In the beginning I thought I would be writing a lot of research paper which I didn't mind. However, that changed after the first two weeks. I myself writing and reading different type of short stories that is not research base. However, my believe of improving my writing didn't change. I do feel during this course I was able to improve to my writing by completing all of my assignment.

As you can see, Creative Writing was a great experience for other students and myself. What made this course so much different from other semesters was adapting to an asynchronous course due to the pandemic we are facing. Take this course you had to organized your assignments by weeks using different folders. Also, the challenges I face was time management. I used every down time as possible to complete my assignment. For example, I used my train ride in to work to complete any reading or writing assignments for my Creative Writing course. It makes the train ride go by faster, and I'm accomplishing my completion of my assignments.

Meet My Belt

I do not bluster about my belt, and it not an ordinary belt. It is my black belt in Shotokan karate that I worked years to accomplish. If I took 6 months or a year off because of unexpected events in my life, I always find myself back to training to accomplish my goal of becoming a black belt. The hardest obstacle that I have to go through in order to get my black belt was getting pass being a white belt. Being a white belt is difficult because you are starting something new and you do not know anyone which can be discourage.

Training martial arts was something that I always wanted to do when I was in high school. I did not want to just be a heavy weight lifter, but I want to use my strength with fighting technique to be a versatile in physical fitness. The main set back of me joining a martial art school was not having an income. When I finally got a part time job on the weekend, my next step was to joining a martial art school. I did not know anything about martial art, so I decided to join a Shotokan school because it was walking distance to my house. Shotokan karate grew on me. Shotokan was more than just learning to fight, but it is a culture and building a family bond with other students. Shotokan Karate is great stress reliever for people having a long day in their personal life by letting their anger out on a punching bag.

Now that I received my black belt from all the hard work, all the blood and sweat I shed, I do feel it was one of my biggest accomplishment. However, I have a long way to become a 5th degree black belt which is the highest-ranking black belt. During my duration of training I see so much students quit because karate put a lot of stress on your body and mind which people have a difficult time over coming those obstacles. I told myself I don't want to be a quitter in life no matter how tuff things got. However, being a black also shows a life lesson that you can stay committed to a task without quitting. To this day, I am still train on a weekly basis, and I even incorporated Jiu Jitsu in my training because you never know when a fight might end up on the ground. Being a black belt became a part of life which I will consider teaching other students in the far future, but I will definitely make sure students don't get hurt by correcting bad techniques.



The Buzzing Forest Park

It is a beautiful day on September 28, 2020, at 6pm the temperature is in the mid 70 degrees range as Rob looks outside. This is a perfect time to go for an enjoyable 3-mile run. The scenery is a bit relaxing once getting through some bumps and curves. Rob starts by running from the front of the apartment building towards Forest Park. Running is one of the biggest stress relievers from the troubling New York City street. Running also helps especially during the time of Corona Virus. While he begins his run, his senses are heightening. Observing everything in his sight.



As he begins his journey, the first half of mile is from the front of the building to the entrance of the park. Leaving the building you become flustered with hearing all the buses as they approach the last stop; passengers rushing for the train. Cars rushing to their destination and the car honking one after the other. As he detours down the side street to the park, Rob glances and begin to admire the million-dollar houses with white picket fences. Along with luxurious cars with 'MD' car license plates parked in the driveway. At this point, he approaches the entrance of Forest Park.

Half of a mile into his run, Rob can feel the salt of his sweat on his face. Rob is on a steady pace, and in the distances, he sees little kids running around with their mask in the park. As he approaches the steps to enter the park, a father helping his son going up the stairs, and two elderly women coming down the stairs. At this point he made the decision to go up the steep grassy hill to avoid a collision. Passing the basketball court, teenage kids playing, and he was struck with a strong odor of marijuana. Still continuously running, it's harder to breathe. Passing the portable restroom and renovation of the restroom, Rob holds his breath for dear life of the repulsing smell the feces and urine. Now, passing the portable restroom, on his left he notices the toddlers wresting together on the jungle gym with their parents standing on the side. On his right, he sees the open field with green grass, still nicely cut. The older kids were playing, chasing their parents, and another kid practicing volleyball with her father. He realizes he has to go through a bit of a crowd, dodging little kids riding on their scooters/bikes left and right. This is basically the mile point of his run, trying to avoid being tumbled down.

Half of a mile more of more scenery to enjoy. In the distance he could be the red hand for crossing a busy intersection, so he slows down his pace so he will be able to get the walk sign as he approaches the intersection. After crossing the intersection, he sees all the tall trees and some people running in the same direction with some going the opposite side. Also, adult is zooming pass his in both directions with their bikes. He also observed a few groups laugh together and couples holding hands. At this point he is at the light post with a yellow sign which means he complete 1.5 miles.

He set his apple watch to start tracking his 1.5 back home. At this point Rob turns around, and started to run back home. He's enjoying the same scenery back to his apartment building. As he exits the park Rob leg feels heavy, and his breathing becomes more difficult. He knows only a half of mile to go. He runs across the last street, and in the distance, he can see his apartment. This time he picks up the pace by sprinting down the block. At the end of the block, he turns off his running application on the watch, leans forward with his hands on his knee and breathing heavy.

After he chasing his breath, he stands up straight, and he looks at his watch one more time. The total time was 30 minutes which he disappointed in, but It is time to run up the six felt of stair to his apartment.

How Is The Day Going to Be?

He waves at the kids as they wave back,
He said good evening as the adult stare,
a relieve of not getting verbally attack,
leaves the store with all the snacks,

sits in car at the beginning with silence,
he prepares himself mentally,
probably another day resulting in subsidence,
this is usually,

it is going to be a day someone yells over the radio for help,
as he rushes to aid a fellow member,
is it going to be day someone tried to kill themselves?
As aid is trying to be render,

Is it going to be a day when he's surrounded with people and gets verbally
attack?

For trying to place a criminal in jail,
As the criminal gets ready fight back by talking smack,
the fight begins, time is now moving like a snail,

is it going to be a day when he rushes a 2-months old to the hospital?
Because of a blanket left in the crib causing suffocation,
As he watches the doctors uses all their tools chronological,
the parents still hysterically crying, he leaves feeling helpless going back to the
station,

Is it going to be a day when he rendering aid to a victim that was stab or shoot as
they faithing,

As a crowd gathers, he's getting blame for the actions the of stabber or shooter,
As EMS arrived, he rides in the back as EMS mentions, "he's likely",
Shot in the head or a stab to the heart he knows will not have saved the victim if
he got there sooner,

INVESTING TALK

Robert (Myself) and Richard (brother)

Robert: [send article: 'Boeing 737 Max Cleared to Fly']

Richard: No wonder they went up

Richard: Own aircraft

Robert: What you mean? They manufacture airplanes.

Richard: I thought only parts

Richard: They are like American Airlines Now?

Robert: Na. They make aircrafts and program the planes. Boeing sell airplanes to American Airline, Delta and other airlines.

Richard: Ohhh got it

Richard: I bought them at a good price too

Robert: I know, I'm making a killing now. I used the drop in March to lower my average.

A Friendship Story

A friendship that has been significant to me is the friendship I developed through the years with my wife, Kathy. As I got older, I realized that friends can be a waste of time as for in my experience I was betrayed and often times my “friends” would not be there when I most needed them. I consider my wife and my family as my friends. Although I have many acquaintances, I do not consider them as friends, as it is just small talk between us. I met Kathy over 6 years ago, working in the same location. She would work at the office while I was out in the field. We began interacting with small talks, then several months later we built a friendship. Our relationship is important because Kathy understands my line of work and supports my ambitions of what I want to achieve in life. She understands how it is to work every holiday, all different shifts and working long hours between 12 to 16 hours a day at times. She even understands when I am not able to come home due to working multiple shifts. We both understand how hard it can get at times, but we are able to overcome those obstacles. Also, when it comes to further advancing in my career, I have my wife full support. When I was studying for my promotional exam, Kathy understood the need for me to bring my study materials everywhere we went even on vacation. During our free time we do have a great time spending it together. Before the Covid-19, we would travel few times a year and enjoy nature and other mutual interests. We like to explore different types of food around the city from other cultures. Also, we like to tour around different states to get away from the fast pace city life. In retrospect, it is important to develop a healthy friendship, one that consists of support, growth, in which both learn from one another, and mutual interest and respect.

Life Changing Success

Growing up in New York City is definitely tuff, and you must have a strong mindset to overcome the peer pressures. I also find myself moving from Guyana to New York City adapting to the culture evening harder. Throughout my grade school I was told by my teacher I would not make it in college, and another teacher laughing at me of my financial goals. However, the most important past event that changed my life is passing the Police Department sergeant's exam being list number the low 900 out 2677. Passing this exam build my confidences, proves that you can accomplish anything in life with the right mental capacity and even brought me more happiness in my life.

The Police Department sergeant's exam is one of the toughest exams out there that someone has to take. This exam you have to study 1000 pages of material in an 8-month period. This exam is also considering to harder than the NYS bar exam. There are police officers in our department that are well educated with master degree with GPA higher than 3.5, but they still cannot pass the sergeant's exam. If you don't put the time in studying, you will not pass this exam.

Making sacrifices, be dedicated and put all the negatively aside will guarantee a passing grade. I studied a year for this exam 7 days a week for at least an hour a day, but 8 months before the exam I was study 3 to 4 hours a day. When it came down to 3 months, I even kicked it up to 6 hours a day. The hardest part of studying was finding time to actually study and working full time. Every day during my lunch break I made sure I find the quietest place to study where no one will interrupt during my hour lunch break. Also, on my down time at work I made sure the only application I opened on my phone was study materials. Even on vacation I made time to study. I would wake up 4 to 5 am, and escape to the hotel lobby to get at least 4 to 5 hours before my family wakes up. I remember going clothes shopping with my family, and I had a studying material in my hand reading while my wife was going through the clothes. Studying for this exam was definitely hard on my family, but they were understanding was able to put aside me not being there mentally.

The reason I made this decision on passing this exam was dealing with the internal stress of the department. Every working day I find myself making a plan A or plan B with my wife, if I don't get home in time. It can be a random day, and I find myself working a double or even more than 24 hours straight. Also, I felt I had to get promoted in the department to avoid conflict with my supervisors because if disagree will an issue I will give my feedback which might not be liked by my supervisors. This was definitely a motivation for me to become a supervisor in the police department because I do not see myself being a police officer for 25 years dealing with the internal stress of the department.

Passing the Police Department sergeant's exam was something I took pride in because I was told multiple times by my co-workers that you will not pass it on your first attempt. Not only did I pass it, but I was the highest throughout my command. Passing the exam gives me more time with my family. I do not find myself staying more than 2 hours after my shift unless there is some catastrophic-events going on throughout the city. Passing this exam also gave me the mindset that I can accomplish anything that I put my mind to. Now, it's time to build myself up mentally for the next exam to become a lieutenant on this job.