



Undiscovered

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THE FUTURE?

JAMES VEGAS | CREATIVE WRITING | ENG 1141

REFLECTION

I was originally going to take creative writing years back but unfortunately it was always filled no matter the semester. With the Spring 2022 semester, I gotten the chance to take the course after all this time. As the class and the semester overall draws to a close, there's so much I've learned about myself throughout each single one of the assignments completed within each week. For starters, as someone who's in a writing major at city tech, the writing aspect wasn't very difficult. With each assignment we did from start to finish, it made me think critically with each piece of work. With the weekly readings early in the semester we had to write about, I've enjoyed each story/poem that was provided for us to share our thoughts and feelings on open lab weekly. With these provided for us, they were the groundwork for the main assignments that we had to do. I believe I did almost all the work as well maybe except for one small critique opinion from one of the readings. As for the people in the class, they all seemed nice and their thoughts and viewpoints from the readings we've looked at. As for the cohort assignments, I honestly hated it after a few weeks in. The people in my group didn't communicate well with us or had no conversations at all which made it very unpleasant when giving my analysis on their work. Some of them didn't follow the directions on what to do on the documents rubric, eventually they ended up not doing the work at all. The only people that really put effort on a consistent basis on the work and the cohort writings were my brother and me. This instance made me learn a good lesson, do not rely on other people in groups to get work done, it slows down progression and consistency with all parties involved. While I hope there's change for the cohort stuff in the future, I won't be there for the experience and change but I hope to learn from this when working in groups when it becomes an important manner in classes or jobs. As for the writings I did, I had no idea that all the topics to write gave me so many ideas to express when the final product was sent to open lab. Feedback from my peers and from you professor helped tremendously. It gave me much clearer thoughts on what to talk about compared to my other writing classes where I had to do multiple research assignments and step by step analysis work. I felt there was a sense of freedom with what I wanted to say that I couldn't write about for years. I feel like when I spoke my mind on the poems, memoirs, and stories I wrote, it gave me more confidence to continue to write more things pertaining to the format this creative writing class had. Dare I say it was an overall fun experience from top to bottom. Were there moments where I wanted to fix some things? Sure, but at the end of the day, I'm glad I picked this time to take this writing course. To take a step back from my major writing classes for a few months and evaluate my writing from a different lens. It was unique to see my imperfections and strengths displayed from a different perspective. Perhaps this could lead to something more in the future if I put a lot of effort into it, as for now I can reflect on this creative writing class and say I did a very solid job overall.

MEMOIR

Newer atmospheres in my life give me new memories that will last me for a long time. This past year is no different. Summertime is my favorite season of the year. It's much warmer outside to do multiple activities, and spending time with friends until later at night when it's still some daylight. This past summer was no different, especially with the pandemic cases being a bit lower than usual. Around the middle of June, my brother and I wanted to find a gym membership so we could get a bit more fit and play some sports. It was also a good reason to get out of my house much more during the summer. We confirmed going to the YMCA on Atlantic Avenue when my brother's friend was considering going as well. The YMCA location is called Dodge YMCA specifically.

If you were in the area, it is in the middle of the street when walking on Atlantic Avenue between Court Street and Boerum Place. There are six basketball hoops in a giant court like room and an Olympic sized pool on the first floor. On the second floor is the gym area where there's multiple machines and dumbbells that are used for working out. Past the hallway there's a locker room with a shower area.

I could recall that day like it was last week. We first got off the Clark Street train station so we could go to Brooklyn Bridge Park. This was because when we first tried to apply for a membership at the YMCA location, they told us to wait an hour for someone to give us a tour. We then walked all the way back to Brooklyn Bridge Park to kill some time. It's a beautiful area to go to during the summertime for food, ice cream and relaxation. My brother and his friend were playing in Pier 2 which was a 12-court basketball area. I was very hesitant to play there especially during the warmer climate because it's a very popular place to go and play and there were almost hundreds of people there.

Instead of playing there, I sat down and waited until they were done and ready to head back. I didn't want to feel tired before going to the YMCA. It's a very long walk back there as well and we didn't get back to the facility until just before 7pm. Once we arrived, the smell of chlorine reached my nose heavily along with the scent of the NYC branded hand sanitizer. The smell of the chlorine takes me back to when I was in Florida swimming in my relative's pool. The scent of the sanitizer reminded me of the subway where I would constantly use their stationary hand sanitizer everywhere I went in the summer of 2020. So, the process of applying for the membership was a bit long with payments and college information they needed. I honestly wanted to get it over and done with. Once completed, we got the quick tour of the place. Afterwards, we were able to do whatever we wanted in the facility, which we spent about an hour in the basketball court, which was empty.

Since then, we spent multiple days and hours in the gym working out or playing something in the courts on the lower level. Covid restrictions did have some roadblocks there like having a mask on while working out and playing. But honestly, it's a great experience to go there when I have nothing to do. For 62 dollars a month, it's honestly worth it. I do need to commit more time into going there perhaps 2-3 times a week to make the costs worth it long term. I've put it on hold during the fall to spend more time in my college class work. However, since December it's been reinstated and I'm committing more time there so I can have some time to myself or get my body in better physical condition long term.

SHORT STORY

It was morning time, and Cindy had awoken to her alarm clock on her phone. She set the time for 9:30am the evening prior to begins the new week ahead of her. As she got out of bed, she went to her kitchen to make some Coffee, while grabbing a banana from the counter. After consuming both the coffee and the banana in short order, Cindy started up her PC to start her online class for 10:00, which was a calculus class she's currently taking for college. Ever since the pandemic forced all in classroom learning to go online, Cindy and most people worldwide had no choice but to stay indoors, unless if they needed essential items or had essential jobs. However, with all these world turning events, the entirety of humanity and all life on earth had one glaring circumstance. "Looks like there's still no sunlight in the sky... it's almost 10am..." Cindy talked to herself as she opened her window to view the dark starry skies above. The sun hasn't risen since the first day of the new year. Every day of every hour was pure darkness. Mornings were now nighttime; the only difference people can tell on the time of day is if the moon would appear in the sky for a certain period. This wasn't a geographic issue, but a worldwide issue. Many of the animals and plants that inhabit all over the world were dying. Humanity wasn't getting the essential vitamin D from the sun to their skin. As days went by, the earth was slowly dying. Did the sun disappear in a blink of an eye? It would seem so as scientists discovered weeks later that the earth was a hundred times farther away from the sun than where they were in the solar system. They linked it to the virus that was affecting the people, as the more got infected, the farther away the planet went. Nevertheless, each day was cold and lifeless. However, people had to jobs to do, have their education taught and live for as long as they can in this new normal. Cindy was one of those people that had to deal with this new life. She didn't want to live like this anymore, dealing with two major problems at once. "Will this ever end? Will I ever see the sun again? Will this disease stay with us forever? I just want all of this to be over!" Cindy vented her frustration to herself. Almost a year passed and so much has happened not only to her but everyone just like her all over the planet. Once she did her usual daily activities of college class time online, eating the scare food from cans a few times a day and lounging around her bed watching shows on HBO max, she settled in for the night and went to bed. She didn't know what time of the day it was, not like it mattered. Cindy pondered how many living things have died over the course of this year from no sunlight and this new virus combined. She was lucky to be alive after the year has passed. However, a full year has passed once the next day rolled around. As she woke up from her sleep, there was a bright light that filled up her room. "We have breaking news this just into our news station, the sun has mysteriously reappeared in our center of vision, scientists have discovered the re-emergence of the sun around 7:30am Japanese Standard Time. Scientists have no clue what may have occurred, but this is still an ongoing investigation. Nevertheless, light is back in the sky and a new beginning is upon us." The news anchors say in excitement yet uncertainty. Cindy looked outside her window to see the bright object in the sky she hasn't seen in about a year. "Finally...it's back!" She said quietly with a slight grin on her face.

POEM (Seasons)

Winter is warm under thick blankets and a heater,
While outside is as cold as the arctic glaciers,
Sheets of snow cover the streets like sugar dumped from the sky,
Surely the most wonderful time of the year.
Spring warms up with rain and light jackets,
The scent of the air improves with blooming flowers,
Break from school changes young people's lives,
March Winds and April Showers.
Summer is the peak of the year for many all around,
Schools over, vacations planned, and beaches filled,
Ice cream trucks drive down streets, kids playing outside, air conditioners blasted,
Truly a great season to relax and relax the mind.
Fall begins, leaves drop on the ground like flies,
Climate begins to drop slowly with the deceased sunset,
Dusting off the jackets for the brisk mornings and evenings,
The cycle begins again.