

IF YOU'RE READING THIS WELCOME

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6



Final Reflection

It has been about five months since this class started. My goal when I decided to take this class was just to expand and improve my writing in many different ways. I feel like I have done so. I have seen drastic changes in my writing from the beginning of this semester to now. For instance at the beginning of the semester I wouldn't provide enough detail in my writing which made it hard for the readers to understand what I was saying but I think that now in my writing I provide more detail. Another way that I have improved my writing since the beginning of the semester would be how I organize my writing. Before the semester it would feel like all my thoughts would be all around the place but now it seems like my writing is more organized. Along the way I also had to do many different writing assignments such as dialogues, memoirs, journals, poems and etc. I was looking forward to doing these assignments because I wanted to test myself and see what I was able to do with each assignment. But my favorite writing assignment would have to be the poem assignment. Just because it was very difficult for me to write poems before. When I had to do poem assignments before I would not enjoy the process, I would just do it to get the credit. But this semester I tried to improve my poem writing and I believe I did. It was not easy but after a few attempts it became easier. A big reason why I did not enjoy writing poems before was because I believed that all the lines had to rhyme and it had to contain certain syllables but I realized that poems were not just about rhyming. Poems allow you to express your ideas, poems allow you to make the reader visualize what you are saying and poems allow you to storytell. There weren't any writing assignments that I disliked but if I had to choose one it would have to be Journals. Just because I have been asked to write journals before in highschool so I didn't find it exciting to write journals again. But journals are a good way to keep your ideas and

thoughts safe. Journals are also good because you don't have to follow a task you can just write freely with journals.

Taking this class has helped me learn a lot about myself especially when it comes to writing and reading. As a writer I think that I have gained confidence over the course of the semester. At the beginning of the semester, I was a writer who lacked confidence at times when writing. Just because I was worried about if my writing was good enough compared to my other classmates. But as the semester progressed I gained more confidence in my writing thanks to my classmates and my professor for giving me some great feedback and allowing me to fix things in my writing. This class also helped me realize that as long as you put your mind into something you will be able to do anything, just like in writing. If you put your time and mind into writing it will become easier to write and think of ideas.

As a reader I have learned about myself such as that I am a visual learner and reader. While reading I like to imagine/picture what the writer is saying because it makes it easier for me to understand and it also allows me to be in that person's shoes. Finding out that I am a visual reader/learner has changed the way I write because I now want to make my writing as visual as possible for those who also are visual readers/learners like me. Also I have learned that I do not enjoy reading but what I like to do before reading is light skim of the book just to see what the reading is going to be about and to also have some background information.

A lot of my progress in writing and reading has been because of the revising we have been doing in class. Revision is a very crucial step in writing. When the semester first started, I can't lie I had some trouble revising some of my peers' papers just because I didn't know what to say, because I didn't want to seem rude. But after a couple of assignments I began to figure it out and started to give some positive feedback about areas in which they can improve their writing and

vice versa. The feedback I received from my peers and professor I took into consideration because I know that they are the ones reading my paper and they see something that I'm missing so I try to add it into my paper. I think that revising is a very important step that before I disliked but now I understand that it is necessary in order to improve your writing.

After these five long months I have learned so much about writing that I would like to use what I learned and apply it to other scenarios outside of school. I think that when I take another writing class later on in the future I will always remember what I learned in this class things like dialogue, critique on other people's paper and more. I will also like to help people in my family such as my brother even though he is not in college I can still teach him some stuff I learned so he can apply it to his writing.

To end this off, I have enjoyed every minute of this class all the way from the beginning to the end. Starting with the "Meet My ____" assignment and ending with dialogue. I came to this class with a small understanding of what this class was going to be about. At first I had my doubts of whether or not this class was meant for me, but I'm glad I stayed because I was able to learn so much and was able to improve my writing with many different assignments. Such as memoirs, short stories, poems, and dialogues; all of these assignments have challenged me in different ways. If anyone has any doubts about taking this class, they shouldn't because this class can teach you many things about writing that you may not be aware of.

Memoir

It was the summer of 2012 and I was about to enter my first year of middle school. During that summer I also met one of my closest friends to this day. If I remember correctly I met Isaac during a small gathering. Isaac was a quiet person just like me. At first, I thought that I would just see him that one time but then I realized that he was also going to the same middle school as me. My middle school was somewhat big with a lot of students so I thought I would just see him once in a while and that we would never talk to each other. Later on, I found out that his mom and my mom were friends, so I figured that me and him would talk to each other in the future, and I was right. Once my first year of middle school ended, me and Isaac started to hang out more. I guess what started the friendship was the fact that we both enjoyed playing sports and video games. So that summer we spent most of our days going to the park playing handball, soccer, baseball, you name it. We would also play video games at night once in a while.

Next came high school and I think this was the time when we became close friends. I say that because me and Isaac went to the same high school. The summer before freshman year was when we became the closest of friends. We would do different things almost every day and talk every day. Some days we would go to the city, other days we would just chill and grab some food with our friends, and sometimes we would just go to the park. That summer without a doubt was the most fun I've had and also the time when me and Isaac became really close. One specific moment that I remember about our friendship would be the first day of highschool for me. Isaac was already a sophomore so he told me that we should go to school together so he could guide me around the school so I could find my classes. I found that to be very nice of him because he didn't have to show me around but since he knew it was my first year and my first day of school

he decided to help me. After that summer we would open more up with each other. If he needed advice, I would give him some or if he needed help I would help him, and same vice versa

Even though I and Isaac are different in many ways we still to this day remain close friends.

Looking back at our friendship it's interesting how we met and how far we have come. I would say that I am grateful to him for the advice he has given me, his help, and his friendship.

Short Story

School was about to end and Noah didn't have many plans for the summer, which was disappointing because he was looking forward to doing some enjoyable things. After pondering on what he could do during the summer he got an idea. He thought about going on a trip to Six flags with all his closest friends. So he contacted 4 of his closest friends and asked them if they were down to go on this trip. They all agreed so now all that was left was to pick the date and the tickets. They decided to go on Friday because they were all free that day. So they had a couple of weeks to plan what they were going to bring on the trip. But first, they had to rent a car so they could get to six flags because it was far from where they live. So they did that and everything was all set.

So Friday came by, and they all met up at Noah's house early in the morning, like about 7 am. So it was Noah, Chris, Isaac, and Juan. They were all ready and excited to go on this trip. After they all got inside the car it was time to hit the road, it was about a 2-hour drive. During the drive they were all cracking jokes, listening to music, and just having a fun time. Once they arrived at six flags they had to find parking and then it was time to have some fun. The first ride they got on was Green Lantern. Green Lantern is not the tallest ride but it did have some sharp turns to it. Noah and Juan sat together and Isaac and Chris sat behind them. None of the boys were really scared of heights or roller coasters so they spent their whole time at six flags on rollercoasters. They also got on rides such as Nitro, the Batman ride, and other thrilling rides like those. Out of those rides Nitro was probably the ride the boys were most excited about. Nitro didn't really have many turns but it did have a steep drop to it. When the boys got on they were nervous, on the ride all the people were screaming of excitement. After riding the rides, the boys also decided

to get some food. So they decided to go to Dippin Dots to get something to cool off. After being there for hours they decided to leave back home but they first wanted to stop to get some food because the only food they had during the day was Dippin Dots. So they stopped at a Mexican restaurant. They all got tacos except for Noah. He decided to get some enchiladas. After eating they went back home, they arrived pretty late back home and they were all tired. But Noah really appreciated that his friends were able to come on this trip because he really didn't have anything else to do during the summer. So he was very thankful towards them.

After that trip, they decided to go on some more trips that summer because they had fun during the six flag trips. During that summer they also went snowboarding, carnivals, and other amusement parks. The summer started what seemed to be unexciting for Noah but in the end, it turned out to be one of the best summers he has had.

Poem

covid/quarantine

pre covid was fun

would be able to go places

but covid hit hard

for a couple of months it was the new normal

couldn't go outside

couldn't go to school

couldn't go to the store

everything seemed to slow down

graduation was virtual

this seemed pretty bad

but quarantine allowed me to gather myself and

find things about myself that I didn't know

like me enjoying to cook, and being more active

Dialogue

isaac: I have this assignment due in a couple of weeks, want to be a part of it?

chris: what do I have to do

isaac: it's like a podcast type of assignment

chris: Alright, do I have to show my face?

isaac: no just talking

(day of filming)

isaac: Are you ready?

chris: yea, what are we going to talk about

isaac: my professor said as long as it brings up questions that should be fine.

chris: you don't have some topics to talk about?

isaac: I was thinking that we should tell the funny story you told me a couple of weeks ago

chris: alright let's do it

(1 hour later)

chris: i'm so tired, this took a bit longer than i expected

isaac: yeah, but we finally finished it, thanks though

isaac: (days after)

isaac: (presenting his project in front of the class)

isaac: yo they are going to present our podcast

chris: oh no, let me know how it goes

isaac: alright

isaac: yo everyone is laughing at it they found it funny

chris: i'm glad they found my story funny

Journals

Journal 5:

A moment in the past that has changed me would probably be when quarantine started. Before quarantine started my day-to-day life consisted of going to school, then going back home, then doing my work, and then going outside. But once quarantine started none of that was possible. School was all online, so instead of waking up earlier to get ready for school, I could wake up 5 minutes before class and just log in to my laptop. Going outside wasn't really an option. There would be no one outside, everyone just stayed inside and tried to obey the laws. It would be so crazy that sometimes I would lose track of the days because all I was able to do was stay inside. Even though quarantine was boring it made me in a way more responsible. For example, school didn't feel like an obligation anymore, it was more like if I woke up in time, I would join the class, but if I didn't wake up in time, I would just miss class. So quarantine made me act more responsible. Also, quarantine helped me discover some new hobbies that I never knew I was good at. Quarantine also opened a lot of time for me to hang out with my family. And it was nice to experience different things with my family while in quarantine, it helped me get even closer with my family

Journal 4

I would say that I have two types of "families". My blood-related family and my close friends who I consider to be my other family. In my blood-related family, I of course have my dad, mom, brothers, and cousins. But in my other family, I would say I only have a few members, specifically three people. For privacy reasons, I will refer to them as family members one, two,

and three. Family member one is reserved, athletic, and creative. Which is funny because I would say that me and family members are different from one another. The only similarities we both have are that we both are athletic and reserved other than that we are completely different, and I guess that's what makes us such close friends because we both bring different mindsets and we both benefit from each other. Moving on to family member two. Family member two and I both share the same name. Which makes it even better (not really). Family member two and I are more similar; we both like more of the same stuff. We have the same taste in music, sports, and food. Even though me and family member two don't talk as much as before he still remains a part of my family because of the long time period we remained close friends and all the good times we went through. Lastly, comes family member three. Family member three is also similar to me. We both like the same sport. We both play it. We sometimes play video games and other things. Me and family member three haven't been friends for the longest but the time we have spent together has been all fun and exciting. I would call these three friends my family, because of the memories we have, the conversations we have had and the respect we have with one another.