

Long but productive semester

by Yves Kabore



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Final Reflexion

Throughout this semester I have learned a lot about myself as a writer as well as a reader. Assignments such as memoirs, short stories allowed me to think and come up with a story, then figure out how to lay it up correctly without grammatical mistakes. We then had to rewrite a corrected version after reading the feedback from the professor which was very handy because we can now avoid the previous mistakes. Poetry was the topic that I was the least familiar with but after reading suggestions it was not that bad, especially that we had to revise them and repost eliminating further mistakes. Dialogues were a lot of fun. I have not written too many dialogues before. Having to use past conversations I already had was very helpful. In fact, reading other classmates work and having suggestions from them is also beneficial. For the journal assignments, we basically wrote our how good or not so good was our experience writing a certain post and that was great. Writing assignments is productive but being given a chance to tell your experience about each assignment is a very nice addition. I have learned a lot about myself as a writer through all mentioned assignments above. My biggest challenges when it comes to writing are the spelling which is a big deal, but I'm giving myself more time to work harder on that because I am not a native English speaker. I went to high school in Burkina Faso (French speaking country), we were taught English two hour a week, but many students do not think it's important. Fortunately, I was not one of them. I found English interesting and understood the importance of it, so did my best to learn as much as I could, and it helped me a lot when I moved to the US five years ago. While typing, the misspelled words are usually corrected electronically but obviously I can't rely on technology to get things right as the Murphy's Law states: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong", so it's better to just learn how to spell.

When it comes to reading, I've notice that I have improved a lot. I remember having hard time reading like three years ago when I was getting ready to go to college. Now I have noticed that I have less stumbling while reading. The thing is that I haven't been a big fan of reading since I finished high school, so I have not acquired enough skills throughout the years. The translation from French to English made it even more overwhelming. However, it is not late for improvement. This semester, even though it has been very challenging, I was able to learn and improve my skills in reading and writing. A little contrast in the work done now and before is just the slower workflow, but I guess the beginning of the semester is always more relaxing, so it makes sense. My early assumptions at the beginning of the semester were that I was going to improve my reading and writing as I thought in past English classes and those assumptions were came true. I had a great experience revising assignments. I found it very helpful being able to resubmit an assignment after getting feedback from the professor. It was also good that peers were able to comment. I have received many useful tips from peers especially from Ariel Itshaik who was in the same cohort as me and always asked the right questions. It clearly highlighted where I had to be more specific. All the acquired skills during this semester will be used in college as well as in my community. Learning to read and write is not just helping the student read and write but also communicate efficiently. In addition, assignments that we had in class such as dialogue aims at improving the student's ability to exchange verbally as well as in a written format which can be very helpful in one's everyday life in his community. Among the assignments that we had, my favorite assignment was the journals. They are like reviews and allow the students to share their thoughts about an assignment regarding their experience while writing it. This helps the professor get an idea on what kind of challenges the students may face, so she can help them learn better. Reading also improved the student's ability to comprehend what he is being told which is very handy during every single class session even mathematics. The student as to read every single question/assignment and understand it in order to give a correct response. Watching a TV show, reading newsletters, commuting, ordering food

all require constant reading which tells a lot on how important reading is in our everyday life.

Adapting to an online class was not easy. There are so many things that make it challenging like being easily distracted at home, not having a lot of space at home can also affect the learning process. Things like internet issues that I never had before the lockdown, probably due to the fact that now everybody is using the internet to take classes which decrease flux bandwidth. Otherwise, everything was fine. In conclusion, it has been a long but productive semester through which a lot was acquired. We learned how to read and write through assignments such as short stories and memoirs, then journals to give our thoughts on the subjects. In addition, we wrote poems which was a lot of fun. I personally haven't written a lot of poems before, so the subject was very interesting and informative. We also wrote dialogues through which we learned how to structure the dialogues. Basing the first dialogues upon conversations we have already had through message however was an easier way to start. In addition, we had journal assignments to write about our experience writing the assignment. All these different skills set that we learned will be very useful in school and in our everyday life in our community.

Memoir

Growing up, I enjoyed playing with different types of toys, but getting my first Nintendo game boy was the best thing I can think of when it comes to having fun during my childhood. It made me “fall in love” with electronic games and I never really enjoyed having fun unless it was electronic. Not only I loved electronic toys, while growing up, I also had a passion for things like the TV, the radio and so forth. So, my parents bought me computers throughout the year, but they always went for the cheap ones. They were slow and would barely run smoothly the games I use to like, but I still loaded each one with non 3D games as they require less computer power to run correctly.

I grew as a huge fan of computers in general and loved disassembling and reassembling them. That’s how I learned how to upgrade computers and do basic repair such as parts replacement. For 3D gaming, I needed a powerful computer but a computer that can run modern 3D games is expensive. Luckily, I am taking computer engineering major, so I was able to convince my parents to help me get a decent laptop capable of running heavy games and graphic intensive work because I also had to run computer simulations during my CAD classes. Obviously, I never told my parents that I was also interested by the computer’s gaming capabilities.

So, they helped me get an Alienware 17 with quiet good specifications. A 17.3” screen, the bigger the screen, the more immersive the games feel. The laptop came with an Nvidia GTX 1080 graphic card, used to be one of Nvidia's top dogs, but it's kind of dated today even though none of my hardest game ever froze. It had 16GB of RAM (Random access memory), then I upgraded to 32GB RAM because the larger memory equals faster computer and better multitasking capabilities. It also has Tobii eye tracking built in. It lets the gamer use his eye to control the computer making first shooter games outstanding. Instead of aiming with the gaming mouse or controller and click to shoot, you look at the enemy on the screen and blink to shoot. A 330 Watts charger was included which is quite a lot for a laptop. The only downside to my laptop is that it is so big and barely fit my backpack. I remember looking weird in the cafeteria in front of my big screen. At night I would run the laptop built in RGB glowing lights and stare at it till I fall asleep. I also used my laptop to study, do research and stay connected with friends and family. The most important thing I use my laptop for schoolwork, 3D designing, video editing etc.

My laptop is very important to me especially right now that we have to take classes online. It has been a while now, the laptop is starting to age, I might start doing some upgrades to it and make it hold for a couple of years. Dell has released a newer version (Alienware Area 51m), hopefully I will be able to afford it in the future

Short Story

John really likes riding his electric scooter to school, to the grocery store and sometimes he cruises around having fun. However, the battery runs out quickly, so he saved most of his money and bought a bigger scooter that he can ride longer and go faster. He was very happy with the performance of his new scooter. he went to group rides downtown Manhattan a few times with people who have various electric scooters, electric skateboards, and electric bikes. He even learned how to do tricks such as willies and drifts.

One day after the group ride, he got home very excited that the scooter was able to run for over 20 miles and still have a lot of charge left. He put it to charge in the living room, turned on his computer as usual and started enjoying YouTube videos in his bedroom. About 30 minutes later he heard his mum screaming and when he rushed over, he found the scooter in high flames and the fire was taking over the living room. They had just dried laundry it there were clothes all over the place. The fire quickly caught the curtains, and John was overwhelmed. He did not know what to do. He ran to one of the rooms grabbed a bucket ran to the bathroom ran water in it, rushed it back to the living room in a desperate way to take out the fire, but in vain. Due to the panic, none of them even thought of dialing 911 for help. They both got out of the house and John had to rush back inside to get his phone so they can call 911. Everything felt like a nightmare, but John never woke up from it. He was nervous and scared, struggling to explain what help he needed. He could not hear a word due to the noises from the fire alarms. The whole time, his mother kept comforting him, telling him not to worry. She was just glad that they were both safe.

The firefighters busted all the windows broken, took out the fire and isolated the remains of the scooter. John was in the staircase with his mother talking to a police officer explaining what happened. There was water on the floor everywhere. In their apartment, they cut the electricity and the water, then they were given information on how to get a place to stay momentarily. This experience traumatized John and he always think about is it whenever he sees an electric scooter. Things went back to normal after a couple of months, their apartment was fixed, they have lost many belongings from the fire, but his family was glad that nobody was hurt. John always thinks of this incident whenever he sees an electric scooter.

Poetry

Everything is dust

We fall in love so fast

Not only towards humans but also towards things.

Serve us a good meal and we will be back for our daily dose

A beautiful evening of wine and we are in love with wine

A nice advertisement on TV and we are hypnotized

But at the end of the day, It is all fiction

Everything is dust ...

A little positivity

There is nothing more beautiful than nature

Waterfall, mountain and plants

Covering the earth, devoid of fear.

Nature knows that the sun will shine and earth will rotate

Rain will fall, thunderstorms will rumble

Nature has fewer worries than Humankind,

Maybe humankind is nature's biggest concern,

But nothing will slow down its course.

Dialogue

Dialogue 2

(Ben is asking a favor from his best friend Yves. They are very passionate hobbyists)

Ben: Hey bro! Do you still have your ender?

(The Creality Ender is a 3D printer)

Yves: Yeah, what's up

(Ben finishing his electric skateboard build but missing cases for speed controllers)

Ben: Got Trampa VESC enclosures (STL) off 3D cult looking for someone to print them for me

Yves: I got you!

(Ben very happy that, he is going to get his print job done)

Ben: Dan, i guess I'm paying for the electricity haha

Yves: Nahh, that's fine!

(Ben , very happy)

Ben: Thanks bro. That's the coolest thing ever, I'm really excited

(Yves, looking through the box of filament rolls, checking what material I have left)

Yves: Got blue, green, black and red PLA left, what's more suitable?

Ben: definitely black PLA, 100% infill if you don't mind

Yves: got it! You got a pic of your setup?

Ben: yeah

(Then sends a picture of his electric longboard)



(Yves impressed)

Yves: Nice! how do the escapes perform?

(the escapes are the Brand of the speed controllers [the two square black boxes])

Ben: Like champs bro, the torque is insane!

Yves: cool, I rock with the unity, not bad either.

Ben: thought it was discontinued!?

Yves: The company went bankrupt but the product still shines LOL

(Ben cracking up...)

Ben: haha! you're right

(Yves turning ON 3D printer and computer, opens Gmail)

Yves: email me the models, you can pick up on Monday!

Ben: Thank you bro! I've been messing around with powder coating if you need anything done let me know

Yves: NP!

Journals

Journal 3

I had a good experience with short story writing. I found it a bit challenging to come up with ideas on what to talk about, but overall, I think it's a great writing exercise that pushes the student to think more and explore others works. It's both good reading and writing since each student gets to read other students work and comment sometimes. Also, personally, developing stories is one of my weaknesses when it comes to writing, so having to try hard can only help.

Journal 9

The assignment on writing dialogues, was one of the most interesting of all assignments. I had to browse through very old message just so I do not post boring ones, but somehow I enjoyed sharing some of my "non too private" conversations through messages and also have a chance to read for my classmates. Learning what other classmates are into such as hobbies, major and vacation ideas is cultivating. The overall experience was good, and I learned from it.