

Tingting Chen

ENG1121(E-115)

My Journey (Final Reflection)

Unit 1

How did you get to class? I wake up at 6:20 AM by cellphone alarm as normal. I'm not supposed to get up so early because I start working at 9 AM. But I live in Staten Island and work in Manhattan, the subways always delay.....So, get up! It's really a busy working day! I left company at 4:30 PM. After a quick dinner, I took a A train to Jay st-Metrotech subway station, this is my first class of this semester. Since I haven't been here for a month, I'm curious and a little afraid about new semester. Finally I came to my classroom N-1004 and sat down. With new professor came, new semester officially began.

My Fear and Cure: Lots of adults and children love small animals. But I 'm afraid of animals, even like cats and birds. When I was a child, I had a close friend who lived next to me. I remember that time I visited her house around 9am, she was still in bed. After we talked for a while in her bedroom, she decided to have breakfast. Before she left the bed, a cat ran out of her blanket. The cat didn't attack me, but I was terrified nonetheless. So I have never touched cats since that time. I will admit that cats are tame, but I still can't overcome the fear till now. I never overcome my scare in my memory. I encourage me, I give up! I recognize my permission to my scare.

Summary For: Grammar to Get Things Done (Chapter 1): "Grammar to Get Things Done" is a grammar guide book that emphasis on real-world use for middle and secondary English teachers. In Chapter 1, the authors introduce the definition of

grammar, usage , and mechanics, the developments of modern grammar instruction. The authors divided the grammar into prescriptive, descriptive and rhetorical grammars. Comparing prescriptive and descriptive grammar, descriptive grammar is new in classrooms in the United States and more acceptable by students. I respect the traditional and standard grammar for English learning, but I also like some flexible changes based on real life in writing grammar with time goes.

my movie and TV series list in memory:

1. *Forrest Gump* teaches that life can be so dramatic that everyone should try hard to realize their dreams.
2. *Cold Mountain* is impressive because it remind people the cruelty of war and teaches them to cherish peace.
3. *Wolf Warrior* enhances the Chinese people's national pride.
4. *Friends* is one of the my favorite TV series. It's very fun and a useful tool for learning English.

Private: Summary For: Backpacks vs Briefcases: Steps toward Rhetorical

Analysis: In “Backpacks vs Briefcases: Steps toward Rhetorical Analysis”, Laura Bolin Carroll explains that the implications of rhetorical analysis and how to analyze the rhetorical. The author argues the rhetorical analysis helps the consumers evaluate the ethics of messages in our real life. The audience first needs to find the rhetorical function by analyzing the rhetorical situation or rhetorical triangle which includes exigence, audience , and constraints. Then the audience could understand argument

through the rhetoric persuasion — logos, pathos, and ethos. Followed the author's steps toward rhetorical analysis, the audience could better grasp the heart of the arguments being presented in their lives.

To me, I think this article helps me better understand the information from the media and consider things more intellectually in the real world.

Early Today.....: I get up at 6:30am as normal. I was late for work yesterday, so I have to finish breakfast quickly and take the subway as early as I can. There were not many people on the street, seeing as it was the middle of winter break. Unfortunately, there is no break in college. Recently my neck has been hurting, which could be a result of me spending plenty of time on my computer and smartphone. When I got home in the evening, I laid on the sofa and did nothing. I realized that I ought to do some exercises. I took the hot yoga class last Thursday. It was a very tiring exercise that had my muscles aching for what felt like ages. Two days later, I survived!

Freedom is Mine(Essay):

I'm a single child who grew up in China. My parents always took care of me since I were a baby. I could have everything and needn't to share with siblings like the other kids. But still, when I was a teenager, I started to show adolescent rebellion.

My mother was always telling me what I should do. "Eat healthily; walk across the street and always pay attention to look both ways' for cars; get up early in the morning; don't sleep late at night..." Well, my mother's nagging was endless. It was even hard for me to sleep late on weekend mornings. Sometimes I talked back to her as " I'm not a

baby anymore, I've grown up!" Separating from my parents was one of the important things for me to accomplish during that period. I was so jealous of some high school students in residence because I had to wait to living away from home to college. I felt I was hopeless, like I was in prison. I even refused to play with my classmates after school because I thought my parents would deny it. Freedom for me meant leaving home.

When I graduated from high school, I chose a college in another city. I finally left home and started my new independent life. I still clearly remember the day my mother sent me to college. Especially the scene when I said goodbye to my mother in front of the dorm. The night darkness covered the excitement inside me, but it couldn't cover my mother's tears on her face. I was too excited to consider my mother's feeling. So I felt it and ignored it.

In college, I couldn't wait to enjoy free air every day like a happy bird. I suffered military training for two months, but it was totally worth it. I watched TV series whole nights, slept to noon on weekends, ate unhealthy fast food before sleep... I tried lots of things that I had forbidden to do at home. Before college, my hair was always cut by my mother. After college, I could choose the hairstyle by myself! When I was a sophomore, I cut my hair only in one inch long like a boy. That's the craziest thing I could remember. One time, I had stomach flu because of eating street food. It's the first time that I thought of my mother's chatters. I called my parents each week to make sure they were good. Later on, my parents and I gradually got used to live separately.

Three years later, I graduated from college, but was still try to find ways to escape from my family. I went to Guangzhou, which is 2600 kilometers away from my hometown. My family had never been there before. I was so excited about it, but my parents were so worried that my mother sometimes had nightmares after I left home. I never knew about it until my mother told me this a few years ago. As I say, freedom meant independence from family at any emotional cost.

I made a living by myself in a strange city. Everything went well until I got married and had a son. Being a mother was tough enough to beat me down. I even didn't know how to hold a baby, the breastfeeding almost killed me..... Mother taught and encouraged me to overcome all these difficulties. The experience of taking care of my son made me understand why my mother was always worried about me. However, another problem arose. I couldn't go back to work unless someone could take care of him for me. I got stuck again. My parents showed up. They took care of my son much thoughtful than ever. Though my mother kept chattering as before, I actively communicated with her and told her my feeling. Sometimes we argue a little, we would always be fine very soon. At least, we opened our heart to each other. This time the family reunion made me free because the meaning of freedom changed to having an occupation. As a daughter, I thought over what did freedom mean to my parents. Everyone has the right to freedom.

Now we've all lived together in American for a few years. The difference is that I can find freedom where my parents are. With the help of my parents, after working I could take evening classes, do yoga, or facial. I also want my parents to gain freedom and

happiness. I encourage my parents to go to the senior center. They take part in the activities and make friends there. They also arrange a vacation back to China for a few months each year. The whole family enjoys our life together.

It's possible to feel freedom wherever you are, and whoever you live with. Just like Malcolm X wrote in his article, "Learning to Read," "Between Mr. Muhammad's teachings, my correspondence, my visitors, . . . and my reading of books, months passed without my even thinking about being imprisoned. In fact, up to then, I never had been so truly free in my life." (12)

I think freedom is rooted on obtaining a feeling of balance in you heart. The meaning of freedom change in different stages of my life. Anyone could gain true freedom as long as you bravely pursue it.

Work Cited

X, Malcolm, "Learning to Read", Autobiography, 1965.

Unit 2

Unit 3

Unit 4