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Table Of Contents:

My Journey

UNIT 1

(selections of your best work)

UNIT 1 REFLECTION

(your reflection on unit 1 and the grades you received on your work in this unit)

UNIT 2

(selections of your best work)

UNIT 2 REFLECTION

(your reflection on unit 2 and the grade you suggested and the grade you received)

UNIT 3

(selections of your best work)

UNIT 3 REFLECTION

(your reflection on unit 3 and the grade you suggested and the grade you received)

My Journey

Dear Professor,

My journey for Eng.1121 has been a rollercoaster. From the first few weeks of school I've always been the shy girl who doesn't speak. You've encouraged me many times to speak in class, but my shyness gets a hold of me. As time went on I started to feel more and more comfortable in class. I felt like I had the ability to speak in class, but just as I built up that courage I started to get anxiety. Once we were transferred over to online class I always made sure i've completed all of my work to the best of my ability. But at a certain point I began to get lazy and slack off a bit. I guess this is what happens when you get used to being in bed all day. As we journeyed to the end of semester I tried to improve on myself, I made sure to attend zoom class and complete any work that was given to me. Overall I wish we had a redo button, who would have expected that we had to end class like this? I wish we were all in class physically learning and seeing one another instead of doing everything over devices. Lastly I just wanted to thank you for being who you are. You've made class feel safe, you've made it feel like home, and for the first person ever who made me build up courage to participate in class.

Sincerely,

Nakiyah Cantey

Unit 1:

Charter VS Public

It was five years ago when I made the worst decision in my life; choosing a high school, yes choosing the high school I attended was one of the biggest decisions I regret. Some people may think it's just a high school what can go wrong, but you have no idea on the imprisonment I felt while attending the school.

It all started in Achievement First Crown Heights Middle School, the very day we were given the opportunity to choose what high school we shall attend. It didn't take long for me to come to a conclusion, I've decided to attend Achievement First Brooklyn High School alongside my friends. Have I made the worst decision of my life? Or have I made the best decision in my life? I thought they were clueless not knowing the answer to my own question. But I guess I'll know the answer to it once I experienced my first year there.

August 2015 we started our first week of school, it wasn't so bad but I must say the rules are ludicrous. As time went on I began to get in trouble for things that were preposterous in my opinion. I got in trouble for picking up my pencil without permission, chewing gum, having a closed beverage on top of my desk, using the bathroom “without permission”, having a “rude” tone of voice, and wearing an “improper” uniform. This was insane, we're supposed to be young adults but were being treated as if we were children. I thought this was high school, something that's supposed to be the best four years of our lives but it was more of a prison. I never had so much detention with unjustified reasons until I started this high school; it left me to go home in

tears rather than joy. This school gave me severe mixed emotions. I was sad, angry, and stressed to the point where my mother thought I needed to see a psychiatrist.

Well it was the end of the school year, yes I survived that wicked high school. My mother gave me the opportunity to transfer to another school, so yes I indeed seized that opportunity and transferred to WATCH located at Thomas Jefferson High School. I finally felt free from that despicable school, no more strict rules, no more detention, and no more uniform. It took me a while to make friends, but I soon realized that WATCH is the school for me; my grades were much better, I became more social, and I participated in many activities. Although I only attended WATCH for three years, I must say it was the best three years in my life and I wouldn't change a thing about it.

Sometimes looking back at my actions I wish I'd never never attended that cruel school. Although a charter school is supposed to mold you into somebody great but they end up breaking you into somebody you're not by scolding you for actions they believe are unworthy. This indeed makes us feel that we are unworthy, which can result in bad behavior from students, or they may feel like they must change every little thing about them to become a "perfect example". This is why I wished I would have spent all four years in WATCH, a school that benefits us students and a place where they help us grow.

Unit 1 Reflection:

During unit 1 I struggled a lot with participation. Given that I am shy, it is very hard for me to participate in class. As a result, it is also hard for me to pick out any of my success during this unit. I actually don't think I have succeeded in anything because there's always room to grow. But within this unit I did enjoy it very much, it is nothing like High School. In High School it became serious too fast, meaning that we dove straight into readings and essays as soon as school started. Given the readings "Shitty First Drafts" and "Perfectionism", I learned that it's okay to make mistakes when writing essays. Every essay you write does not have to be perfect, people are bound to make mistakes. What surprised me during this unit is journals. I never had to write journals last semester so this is all new to me, and who would've thought that we will have to write in transit.

On my Literacy Narrative I didn't do as bad as I thought, but of course I did make minor mistakes. On my paper I made little mistakes such as excessive use of commas and improper verb tense. In order to make my Literacy Narrative better I need to revise my paper more than twice. Personally the way I will improve my paper is by limiting the amount of commas I use; instead of using so many commas I can just simply create a new sentence. For verb tense I can look in the "The Little Seagull Handbook" for ways I can improve it, or how to use it properly. By listening to other people's narratives I learned how much details I could have incorporated into my paper. Sometimes I overthink too much, trying to decide whether or not I should incorporate certain details. But when listening to other people's papers it flows very nicely, it helps create an image in my head and gives me a better understanding. As a result, this

makes me want to incorporate more details than i'll usually will. Hopefully it will get me a better grade on my paper than I did before.

Overall for this unit I think I deserve a B. With the readings given to me I didn't annotate as much as I can, I know I can do way more than highlighting important details. I did indeed complete all of my short writing assignments. But in class my shyness does in fact get the best of me, not allowing myself to participate. I do indeed want to participate, but the anxiety builds up causing me to be very nervous. Overall, I do try to complete all of my assignments given in or out of class to my best of ability.

Reflection & Grade:

Unit 1 was better than expected. I've gotten the opportunity to speak on something that's been having a big weight on my shoulder. Something that had affected me both physically and mentally. For this unit I've suggested that I get a B, and fortunately I did receive a B. I'm not the best writer so I have to know/understand what my work is capable to receive.

Unit 2:

Mid Semester -- GENRE

Section 1: Extended Diary Excerpt

March 25,2020

10:00AM

Right now I'm on Blackboard Collaborate attending my biology class for an hour and fifteen minutes. I find the online class quite boring because she sends us the slides to take notes on our own time, so I don't really see the point on using Blackboard Collaborate. I guess she uses it for attendance mainly.

11:15AM

Next I have Bio Lab until 2PM on Blackboard Collaborate. Again I do find using Blackboard Collaborate boring. I much rather be sitting in class and using the actual materials for the experiment. But there's nothing we can do because of the virus. After the class finished I took a nap because I didn't get much sleep last night.

5:00PM

I woke up from my nap and began to feel hungry. So I proceeded to get something to eat, as I'm eating i'm watching Spongebob which is my favorite childhood show.

6:20PM

I began to do my Pre-Calculus classwork for about an hour and 30 minutes. After I did my math work I decided to do my homework one time, which took about an hour to do.

9:00PM

After completing all of my math homework, I went to take a nice hot shower. Next I went to have my dinner that my mother cooked (oxtail, rice, and plantain). After eating dinner my uncles from Trinidad facetime my mother to see how we're doing. I honestly miss Trinidad, I miss the weather, and being around my family. Hopefully I'm still able to go for the summer.

11:00PM

I got bored, so I went on my PlayStation to play GTA and COD with my friends from middle school. Typically we usually be on the game for about 2-3 hours

March 26,2020

2:00AM

Since the lockdown had started my sleeping schedule has been messed up. Me being anemic I started to crave ice, so of course I got a big cup of ice to eat. While I'm eating my ice I am again watching Spongebob on NickToons until I fall asleep.

March 27,2020 - April 1,2020

During the recalibration period I didn't do much. All I did was eat and sleep throughout most of the day. From time to time I will get up and do homework that I still need to complete. Since I had nothing to do, this was a time to be extremely lazy.

April 2,2020

11:30

Currently I am doing my Pre-Calculus school work. It typically takes me two hours to watch all of the videos my professors provide and write down all of my notes.

1:45PM

After doing my math work, I went to do my math homework for an hour.

3:00PM

I began to feel hungry so I made some pizza rolls to eat. While i'm eating my pizza rolls I am watching this new disney movie that recently came out called "Onward".

5:30PM

After watching the movie, I cleaned my room and changed the sheets on my bed. Now that my room is all cleaned I continued to listen to music for an hour. Once I got tired of listening to music I went to take a shower.

8:00PM

After getting out the shower and putting on my clothes, I went to eat dinner. Tonight my mother made spaghetti. While i'm eating my food, I am watching Paradise PD on Netflix.

10:00PM

I got tired of watching Netflix, so I went to go play Fortnite on my PlayStation. I started off playing by myself, but then my friend Damarie joined me and we started playing duos. He was determined to get me a win tonight because usually when we play together we always end up in second or third place. Finally! We won, and boy did it take hours to achieve this win.

April 3,2020

3:15AM

I was so happy that I finally achieved first place in Fortnite. Given the time it was we both decided it was time to go to sleep.

April 3,2020 - April 5,2020

2:00PM

I don't have class on Fridays so I typically wake up late. There's not much to do since we're on lockdown, so I typically stay in bed all day during the weekend. The only time I get up is to brush my teeth, bathe, eat, and use the bathroom.

April 6,2020

10:00AM

I'm up early in the morning attending my bio Blackboard Collaborate class as usual for an hour and 15 minutes. Once class finished I went back to sleep because I didn't get much sleep last night.

2:00PM

I began working on my Unit II assignment for my english class for about 2 hours and 30 minutes.

4:40PM

Once my essay is complete, I wanted to have a snack so I ate some Bigfoot. Bigfoot is a Caribbean snack that is shaped as an actual foot. The taste is similar to Cheetos puffs, but I personally think Bigfoot tastes better.

5:30PM

I got bored so I started watching makeup videos. I've always been a fan of makeup but never had the time to perfect my craft. I own so much makeup that I can become a makeup artist, but I don't know what's stopping me from doing it. I usually do family and some friend's makeup on certain occasions and I have never received any bad feedback, but I think there's always room to grow. Given this society where there's so many makeup artists out here, you have to be the best of the best in order to have clients and make an income.

8:00PM

I went in the shower, then had dinner. Today my mother decided not to cook, so i've decided to make shrimp alfredo.

9:00PM

Once i've finished eating I started to watch All American until I fell asleep.

Section 2: Reflection And Analysis Of Diary Reading

It was about five years ago since I've learned who Anne Frank was. I was never fascinated with history, but when I learned who she was and what she did it caught my attention. Being a freshman in high school my english teacher gave us a book called "The Diary Of A Young Girl", this book specifically was published in 1993. I don't remember everything that was written in the book, but I know the book was very interesting. I remember this book allowing me to paint pictures in my head and understanding how the character feels. Looking back to my freshman

year I never thought about why my teacher made us read the 1993 version. But thinking of it now it made the book more reliable and life like given that the holocaust took place during 1941-1945.

Skimming back over the book it brought back so many memories. A young girl having to spend her life in hiding due to the holocaust. It upsets me how cruel someone can be just to dictate someone's life. I can't imagine how someone like Anne Frank was always able to keep a smile on her face and continue to do the things she does. When I think of Anne Frank I think of the word strong. A young girl hiding for two years avoiding the concentration camps knowing what might happen to her family if they are found, but yet she tries to continue living her life as if everything's normal.

Bringing back these old memories makes me want to re-read her diary. Now that I am older I want to see how I will interpret her diary differently than the way I did before. I want to know what is different about the book? How is the author's use of diction different? Would there be different emotions in the book?

Unit 2 Reflection:

Throughout this journey of Unit II it helped me improve on not holding back. What I mean by that is before I used to overthink so much when writing about anything, due to this I will hold back certain details instead of incorporating them. But I've learned that when I do incorporate these details they fill in the missing pieces, these details answers the questions of who? What? When? Where? And why? It overall helps the reader to have a better understanding of my piece of writing.

This unit made me understand that writing is just not a typical essay, I learned that writing is so much more than that. Writing is emails, recipes, text messages, News papers, music, and etc. I never thought that writing can be much more than writing essays, but this unit expanded my knowledge and made me understand that writing is so much more than what we typically think it is.

Given this unit I think I deserve a B. It's been quite hard with these online classes, but there's nothing we can do because of the virus. I know that many people have slipped and become lazy with these online classes, but I am one person I can't speak for all I can only speak for myself. I know that I haven't been doing things to the best of my ability, I realized i've been getting lazy. But there's no excuse for my actions, I just have to realize and correct them hoping I won't repeat the same actions again.

Reflection & Grade:

Unit 2 was a bit hard to keep up with. Sometimes i'll forget to write my diary entries everyday. But as for choosing a diary to read, I really enjoyed that. It brought back so many memories from when I read "The Diary Of Anne Frank" in highschool, it was one of my favorite books. The book itself is just so educational, and with the use of imagery we were able to paint pictures in our head to understand the author better. With this unit I suggested a B, I assumed with my strong knowledge on Anne Frank I will be able to achieve it. But I was given a B-. I'm not mad at the grade, I just have to remember to make certain details clearer for the readers to understand.

Unit 3:

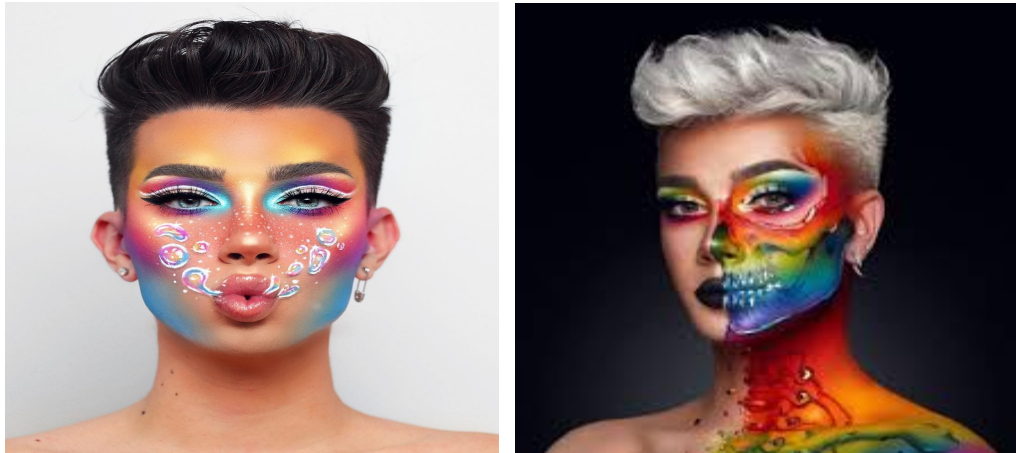
Learning from Each Other: Affinity, and Inquiry

SECTION 1: YOUR SKILL/INTEREST DURING CONFINEMENT/ WITH SOURCES

My skill is makeup. I've learned this skill by watching many videos and teaching myself.

With this skill it can take months or years to perfect, it's just not a simple 3 step process. There's: eyebrows, eyeshadow, primer, foundation, concealer, contour, blush, highlighter, setting powder, setting spray, lipgloss/lipstick, beauty blender, and tons of brushes. With makeup you have to find products that fit your skin type, you can't take recommendations from someone who has dry skin when you have oily skin. Why? Because someone who has dry skin will buy products that moisturize and makes the skin look dewy vs someone who has oily skin will want products that will make the face matte.

Something new I've learned is that there's more to makeup than just your typical routine. Makeup can be a form of art, I've been watching videos of people using typical makeup products to create a form of art on their face. It amazes me how well people can do it, and makes me want to enhance my skills in makeup. Below is a picture on why I convey makeup as a form of art.



This makeup influencer name is James Charles and has 18.3 million subscribers on YouTube. He has worked amongst: Iggy Azalea, Kylie Jenner, Liza Koshy, Kim Kardashian, and etc. His channel is very diverse, it not only consists of typical makeup but it consists of art. What I mean by that is not only does he have the ability to create a typical makeup look, but he can take that look and enhance it into something better. For example he has created instagram filters, Bob Ross painting, a pink drink, and etc all on his face. What average makeup artists can actually say they have the ability/skill to do the same, this is something that takes years to acquire.

Makeup has started around 4000 B.C by Egyptians, whom both men and women wore eyeliner and/or dark eyeshadow not only for cosmetic purposes but also as a way to protect their eyes from the bright sunlight. Occasionally women did wear lipstick created from carmine beetles or clay. As time went on in the 19th century Queen Victoria declared makeup as vulgar and improper due to its connection with prostitutes. In this given present day makeup can still be

perceived as for prostitution or to show your superiority in certain cultures, but most people see makeup as beauty/way to enhance beauty and art.

These people who call themselves a MUA or makeup influencers did not start off great. They took time to practice over and over again to perfect their craft. Makeup is not an easy thing to learn, it can take years to call yourself an expert at makeup. If you're not taking the time to consistently practice then how will you be able to obtain the skill? For example James Charles has been doing makeup for 4 years now, when he first started off he wasn't the best makeup artist ever. But where he is now speaks for itself, you can simply see that practicing a pictorial skill can ultimately result in becoming an expert in that skill. Below are 2 links, 1 shows James Charles first video on youtube vs one of his recent videos.

1. <https://youtu.be/raxb4zHJJPQ>
2. <https://youtu.be/8xLc9fXtFHg>, <https://youtu.be/SwSrzeKLbyU>

SECTION 2: Inquiry -- YOUR INVESTIGATION OF OTHERS' SKILLS AND WHAT YOU LEARNED TOGETHER

Jahdai and I share a common interest in the beauty industry. Jahdai finds interest in hair, while I find interest in makeup. Both skills take years and immense practice to acquire. My views on doing hair has changed greatly, before I used to view doing hair as a simple skill to learn. But there's more to doing hair than a simple wash and set. You have to take into consideration of everybody's hair type. Some people may want a ponytail, bun, sew-in, frontal, braids, and etc. to be able to know how to perfectly do all these hairstyles shows dedication. Overall I think

dedication is something Jahdai and I have in common. We can easily give up on our skill because of the time it takes to perfect, but with the dedication we have and the years of practice we have been able to perfect our skill.

Conversation:

Jahdai- Hi Nakiyah, here is a link to one of my favorite hairstylists.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKPzQKNMKtM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzGnMYWYLNs>

You can watch these videos to understand the process it takes to color and install frontal wigs. You can also leave a link to some of your favorite makeup influencers and any questions you may have.

Nakiyah- When did you start doing hair? Who or what influenced you to do hair? In what ways does doing hair benefit you?

Jahdai- I've been doing hair since 2018. There isn't anyone in particular who has influenced me to do hair. I live in a household where everybody has dreads besides me, so I had to learn how to maintain and do my own hair. I started from learning how to do buns and ponytails, then I learned how to braid, lastly I learned how to do sew-in and frontals. Sew-ins and frontals took the longest to learn because it requires more attention and needs. In simple terms it means that when doing a sew-in or frontal it requires more products and time vs when doing braids it requires less products and time. The benefit I have from doing hair is that hair companies send me free hair to review, also doing hair helps me build my brand so I can get more and more clients.

Nakiyah- The more I explain makeup the more I realize how much patience it takes to do makeup. It may look simple and easy, but it takes way more patience than you'll actually expect.

Below are some of my favorite makeup influencers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBdH7Chc_1k

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cITy9Kp1Bwo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HulJh8XAFzc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oR_EJlpcF0U

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx4T9FYw6n4&t=826s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_ELOj93HLc&t=358s

Jahdai- Thanks Nakiyah, these videos gave me a better understanding on how to do makeup, and what each product is used for.

Final Summation:

I was able to look at hair in a different perspective. I got to understand that doing hair takes more time and effort than anyone would think. Who would've thought that doing frontals/sew-ins would consist of so many things. -Nakiyah

I was able to look at makeup the way Nakiyah does. Watching these videos showed me how beautiful makeup can be, now I see why Nakiyah looks at makeup as a form of art. Also watching these videos makes me want to start doing makeup, maybe i'll start by learning how to do my eyebrows.

3a: REFLECTION ON YOUR PAIR

My pair was Jahdai. I know she's not someone from our class but being as antisocial as I am and not being up to date with my work, I had to improvise with someone I know out of class. It was very easy to work together because our skill is in the same field. Our original connection was there but wasn't there enough to understand each other, but after the conversation it has changed immensely. We were able to build a better connection because we were able to understand each other on a different level. I was able to ask jahdai multiple questions that concern her skill, I wanted to be able to understand her skill more thoroughly and find out what we have in common. From the questions I was able to learn that our skill is both self taught and that we started our skill around the same time.

Unit 3 Reflection:

Overall sharing my skill went pretty well. I was able to see who can or can not relate to my skill, and what one may want to learn about my skill. This process was not the easiest for me because given that finals are coming up; I have got so much work to do. It's hard to be up to date with all of my work when I have so much to do. I am up for hours trying to catch up, but once I've completed something it doesn't make a big difference in my eyes. This process was interesting to me because I got the opportunity to share something I like to do. Although I do wish that I was able to work with someone whose skill is not in the same field as mines. Something I've worked on is explaining certain things in greater detail. Although things didn't go as planned, I think I deserve a B-. Given my history I was able to do the work prior to the

essay and I did attend the zoom class, something I wasn't able to do was check on openlab for updates due to a busy schedule with so much work to complete. But with the challenge I had to face, I had to improvise with a partner outside of class. Due to the fact that I was still able to complete the essay, I believe a B- will be a reasonable grade.

Reflection & Grade:

This unit I enjoyed the most. I was able to talk about something that I loved doing for 3 years now and learn something new. Although makeup and hair is in the same field, it is still two different things. Also with this unit I worked with somebody out of class because I was unaware of who I will be partnered with. So rather than me sitting there clueless and not submitting any work for unit III, I had to decide to work with somebody out of class because I rather turn in something than nothing. With this unit I suggested that I get a B-, I didn't feel finished with my essay but I also didn't know where to improve on. The grade I received for this unit is a B-, I am generally satisfied with a B- and above, as long as I didn't get anything below a B- I have no complaints to make.