

Final Portfolio

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ENG 1121 Section 402
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MY JOURNEY

Dear Professor,

From the beginning of the semester up until now I have learned about English in a different perspective. You helped me think outside the box and dig deeper to what English really is. Ever since you said in class that you are an art major and not really an English major you still excel in reading/writing. English really isn't like the other classes I take because you learn from the experiences you make, understanding that it is not only just about reading and writing but how you understand the language. From the videos, stories and examples you have set out in class helped me think more of a writer, learning different techniques to talk, present and explain my ideas.

Although we have switched to online classes the experiences, I've had in the classroom with you will always be unforgettable, since English class isn't just about writing essays and reading long texts but understanding how to dive into a deeper understanding of English. Starting off by writing in unusual places such as the MTA, outside in the street or maybe even in the park, describing what it is that you hear, see, smell and etc. This was the beginning of my writing journey which just expanded from here. In Unit I we went over how drafting is a key essential part to making excellent essays by reviewing your work and improving it through sentence structures, word choice, and even grammar. From reading "Shitty first drafts" to "Perfectionism" helped me realize how revision is very important when writing an essay especially if you want it to be the best one it can be. Also continuing with mistakes/errors in your writing are good as well because you make progress from there and keep moving forward, not many people are talented enough to write something the first time and make it their best work.

Unit I was the opening bridge for the other units helping me shape and form my writing to become stronger and easier to understand.

In Unit II, we started to presume classes but virtually and what we have done was make diary entries and try to avoid making planners saying each hour or so what we have done. What I took out from writing these entries and reading “Diary of a wimpy Kid” was that writing these diary entries daily were supposed to be amusing and make us stand out from each other. All of us are in the same situation being quarantined at home but how many of us are doing the same thing, one may like to work out, do yoga, cook, clean, play video games, read and etc. Also separating into groups in the form of planets also gave me a chance to ask questions and gather my thoughts and ideas to present on the zoom meeting. Although it was kind of hard at first trying to keep track of what I did daily, I understood that I had to present what I was doing at the moment and how am I coping at home with my family. Since we are in quarantine and haven’t been ever since the 1920’s this makes it rare and special for us as young writers to tell the story on our perspective making others who weren’t born yet feel and see as we once did in the past.

Lastly in Unit III I had the chance to explain about my skill of interest to my classmates. Explaining to as of why I like doing what it is that I do, which for me I said it was cooking since my parents were ill, I had to help around the house making food for them. Saying where I had some background knowledge and how I acquired this skill with the help of my father who used to be a chef. Then I had the chance to exchange some of my information with my partner Jennifer where she said her skill of interest was communication skills as she had this skill for quite some time in her life. We just asked each other four questions to each other and came into a deeper understanding and

conclusion of what similarities we may have in common even though I may cook, and she likes to talk to others, we still related both of our skills to each other making some really interesting comparisons. Overall as English 1121 is coming to an end and for going by so quick I still managed to gain the learning experience I need to excel in life and not only just learn how to read and write but go into depth with the understanding of language arts in English.

Sincerely,

Kenny Uruchima

UNIT I

Section 1: Inner & Outer Assignment

Writer's Journey to Success

Throughout my life I didn't think my writing was where it should have been, explaining and summarizing my ideas straight to the point instead of writing long sentences that don't make sense sometimes. As a writer I have progressed positively, transitioning from high school writing to a new style of writing which was what happened in college. I also think writing is essential because, you can get your point across in a way you would like to form for others, writing for either informing, persuading or explaining are different types of reasons for writing. For example, a way to express yourself could potentially be the way you write your sentences and thoughts using either sarcasm or humor which shows that you're a funny or a sarcastic person. But writing has made me explore many ways of expressing yourself and how you feel by digging in deep to your inner thoughts. Essentially writing down the thoughts you have in your head on paper no matter what it is that you write it can never be wrong or right unless you're answering a prompt but still in writing you can only get better as you improve overtime. Writing has been used for many centuries ever since the Ancient Egyptians which they used hieroglyphics for writing and for me it is very important because no matter what you do as a career it will involve writing whether its numbers, formulas or about history you must write down something to get your point across.

I usually write in a classroom regardless of whether it is full or not but I feel that a classroom is a safe place to write down your thoughts because you are seated on a chair, a table and a pencil in your hand which is essentially all you need to start writing. But I

think getting used to writing in unusual and uncomfortable places helps you think and grow as a writer. Making you see and hear everything around you, by being very observant in the area you are in which can go from being at the park to a packed coffee shop. The writing utensil that I usually use is a nice sharpened No.2 pencil because if I make any mistakes I can just erase it and write something new, but it is not always necessary to have a big notebook, instead maybe using a small spiral book would help gather thoughts easier since it's so much smaller. But lately I've been starting to get used to pens since they are very eligible to read and are mostly used in college. The writing I process really depends on what I am talking about or how much information I know about the topic. For this particular writing, I am describing myself which isn't really hard, given that I am comfortable with the kind of person I am, but many people don't know what kind of writers they are. Writing in the past, future and present tense isn't hard at all unless I don't remember specific memories about them. Memory plays an important role in my writing because I would say things, the way I would see them from my perspective. Being descriptive about myself helps the reader understand who I am as a person and what I am capable of doing as a writer.

The habits I tend to have are using run-on sentences and not using commas/ apostrophes at the right times. I need to work on my grammar but spelling for me is kind of easy. I like being challenged when learning new writing techniques that can help me in the near future because I know it wouldn't hurt me but improve my writing strategies making my writing very clear. The areas I struggle in are using grammar and making my sentences clear and short as possible getting straight to the point. I don't hate anything in writing but the methods to writing, a clear organized straight to the point paper is

essentially what I would like on a paper. My earliest experiences would be from middle school and on because I've had teachers who gave me advice or just looked over my work and corrected it so I could minimize the errors which I know it is helpful but maybe being one-on-one with students will help them learn from their mistakes so in the future they won't make it again. I thank all my old teachers for preparing me up until now, but learning is just like writing, anyone can do it no matter what age you are, and anyone can write a paper. But how many people can actually write a perfect paper on their first try, not many which is why writing is very important because what if you can't get your point across, who will no one can because they're not in your brain. People go into depth by looking at all aspects of writing, but it just depends on who writes it and if they are clear presenting their ideas to the reader. Even the experiences I have encountered in 1101 helped me really prepare for 1121. Which I still feel as if I have much more to learn in the writing process. I can't really name that many people but the teachers from middle school and on, even my 1101 class with Professor Paroulo, I gained so much knowledge and different forms of writing. A reasonable grade I think would be a B or B+ because the work I hand in is never sloppy or rushed. I put a lot of work into my writing assignments. Although I may not talk a lot during class I do listen and evaluate the information being discussed so a B would be a fair grade given my history and ability to do work in and outside the classroom.

Overall, I have found help through many people who helped make my writing stronger. I also used to take tutoring with homework help from programs that have teachers go over your work validating each paper one by one. As most papers do have a

prompt it is good to look around it and look at the questions to see how deep you have to dig in to find your answer.

Section 2: Unit I Reflection

Throughout Unit 1 the work and readings we have done thus far, have really changed my thinking and writing as a student. The learning style I have developed now has changed me into a different writer not only being one-sided on questions but thinking outside the box looking at the different perspectives. I've had many struggles, successes and experiences learning about English trying to view different perspectives of writing especially since I was introduced to a new style of writing. Reflecting over my work which has progressed from English 1101 to now improving in my writing/reading changing the style I write in. Not just answering the questions but look in other directions for answers because in English the answer will not always be right in front of you but reading and diving deep through the text may give you more information than you would need for the answer.

One of my struggles was writing outside my comfort zone, one of them being in public transportation such as the MTA or in open spaces with a bunch of people. Also summarizing or trying to explain myself clearly is another struggle I have with my writing. But some of the writing I have accomplished was interpreting readings and writing what comes to my mind with the information I interpret or is given to me. I did have a lot of fun during activities in and out of the classroom, but it motivated me to write in ways I haven't written before. The work from high school to college is a big jump, back in high school you would just be given prompts, but now the questions asked of me in college are supposed to help me dive in deep to get my point across. Speaking

my mind is one of the best skills I have but trying to put it together and make sentences flow from one to another is a flaw that I have. I think for me the information given by professor Schmerler has helped me think differently as a writer, describing my ideas in different ways. Being creative is key to making a first draft because you must know what it is you are going to be talking about. Especially knowing some background information or just knowing about the topic you are introducing to the reader.

Some of the information I have obtained from this class was the readings and revision to writing. How revision is essential to all drafts because without it you can never improve on your writing. Revision makes the final paper, ties all the information together written down piece by piece. What surprised me was how fast unit one ended even though I think we covered mostly everything for writing generally well-read essays. I never knew there were readings that didn't have certain letter(s) in all the words in the text such as not having the letter E. Some writings such as the "Shitty first drafts" and "Perfectionism" can be examples of how revision is essential to one's writing, especially when it comes to making on the first couple of drafts, since your writing can only improve for the better. My writing has changed over time impacting the way I think about my work as well.

Overall the work I have done so far has really changed my writing substantially making it clearer and understandable. Nowadays I don't see writing as a drag because I love putting in the time and effort to write so I know I can make sense to the reader. Opening up in class about our work and reflections really help us understand one another by not criticizing our work but helping each other thinking in ways we would have never thought of before. I think I should get a B at least for my work because I know I am not

the best writer but I sure put a lot of effort into it and I am mostly an average student but I try to excel in my work to show improvements not only to my professors but for me as well. A letter B grade is fair since I do the work and I do a pretty good job at it too, but the grade I did receive was a (B/B+) overall for this unit.

UNIT II

SECTION 1: MY EXTENDED DIARY EXCERPT

Diary of a Madman Indoor 2020 During Covid-19
March 23-26, 2020

March 23, 2020- Astoria, Queens
Dear Diary,

9:33 AM

I woke up fairly late since I haven't had an online class session yet for English, but I did have my regular physics class to attend at 10 am, Now I'm going to rush into the shower or else I'll be late lol.

11:50 AM

Finally finished my physics class and there was a lot of information to take in, I was a little lost in the beginning given that I was about 5 minutes late but overall I got the concept and I'm just glad I got the midterm over with before moving to online for this class.

1:25 PM

Lunch time, now I get to eat my favorite chicken with rice, it's weird though how lately we've been eating together like a family, given that we were rarely home before. Usually working, being at school or just outside.

4:00 PM

After from uploading so many songs to my SoundCloud playlist I decided to go play FIFA on my PS4 since I'm barely on it and my little brother recently went from playing the PS4 to his new PC which essentially means the computer he games on.

8:35 PM

After gaming for so long I found out that I can start a career mode, which means that I can create a new player and upgrade him by playing games, which would improve by assisting other teammates, scoring goals and being a team player. I also just played with two of my close friends Kid Alex since he's my age but sounds like a kid due to his kind of high pitched voice and Buestan which his actual name is Bryan, but I call him by his last name because there are too many Bryan's in this world so why not just call him by his last name.

10:00 PM

Now I'm going to sleep because I have class at 8 am, my precalculus class that I find very hard to pay attention to since there really isn't teaching going on but just going over chapters from a pdf textbook.

March 24, 2020- Astoria, Queens

1:00 PM

Crazy how I'm writing this in the middle of the day but I literally woke up at 7:30 desperately trying to go back to sleep because I had class at 8 am which was my pre calc class and as usual I don't have my camera on because I just woke up still in my pajamas lol.

I stayed during the lecture and listened to her the whole time, but I was just hoping that she knows I'm present even though she called out attendance.

After that I thought I would have my usual 10 o'clock Psychology class but turns out the midterm was today and it was supposed to end at 2pm which is why I'm starting this diary entry a little late well throughout the rush of 1 hour and 30 mins for a two part exam I think I did pretty good because I passed the first part barely but still passed.

3:00 PM

My parents went out to take my newborn baby cousin and my aunt to the pediatrician for his shot. I'm a little worried that they left being that they're the ones that told me that I should have took my aunt, but they did it anyway.

They came back home with groceries and cooked some bomb a** food, don't worry before cooking and arriving home they washed their hands.

5:28 PM

Finally got back on the grind for FIFA, only have two more days for class as well until the break starts.

7:50 PM

Ordered pizza after a while of not eating it, which hit the spot since I feel so sleepy while writing this last entry for the night. I love it plain with oregano.

March 25, 2020- Astoria, Queens

9:00 AM

I woke up fairly early for my 10 am physics class and this time I was prepared since I have an extra hour to do whatever I can do before class started. Which means I can burhs my teeth and possibly shower, maybe?

12:45 AM

No more overwhelming exams except for one tomorrow but I think I'm fully prepared also I was given the news that Spring break would be shorten and CUNY's would close again for another recess. Not being in the classroom anymore has really affected me to be honest, by making me lazy but I know that I must get work done at home just as I do in all of my classes.

2:55 PM

A nice chicken cutlet with beans, rice and lettuce was what I encountered for lunch I couldn't resist the smell from the kitchen, but I was ready to devour it.

5:12 PM

My dad brought up an old game that I remembered playing when I was in 6th grade which is called burro, it's Spanish game but translated into English means donkey and the whole point was to match the same suit but whoever had the higher number won that round and got to play the next card. Whoever had no cards was out the game but whoever was left lost and thus called the donkey (burro).

7:49 PM

Now time to get back on FIFA and back to upgrading my player. Who I really want to be in, Real Madrid which is one of my favorite team's.

10:40 PM

I totally forgot that I had to do homework for psychology which was an essay with short answer questions included making the homework's two parts now sadly, what made it worse and the end of me was that I have a test tomorrow morning.

March 30-April 3, 2020

March 30, 2020- Astoria, Queens

Dear Diary,

10:00 AM

I just woke up from sleeping at 2am since I was on the phone talking, waking up to the smell of bacon and eggs in the air felt SOOO amazing. Especially since we were on recalibration break. I think it's good were having this because some faculty and students need all the resources they can get, before presuming forward with this semester.

12:35 PM

I took a shower an hour ago and now I feel pretty fresh, Today is also my parents' anniversary, making this year their 25th year anniversary of being married. Someday I would like to be married for that long or even more. I help my brother too with his homework and it's been a little annoying since he's in 8th grade and I don't really remember most of the work from before.

2:30 PM

Since I had a pretty big breakfast, I decided to make myself a PB&J sandwich since it's been one of my favorites from grade school. I turned on the tv and I decided to watch this show that I'm currently into called Freaks & Geeks which came out in the year 2000. I don't know why but it really caught my attention since it's about a life of a high schooler and it's from the past, before I was even born too.

7:00 PM

After watching several episodes, I am like an addict to this show, even though there is only one season I'm really looking forward to it since it talks about life from the past but in a high schooler's perspective. Now I'm going to eat fettucine alfredo which they sell at my Pizza & Pasta place across the street from my building.

9:25 PM

That food hit the spot, but I had to share it with my little brother, my parents didn't really get anything because they don't have any appetite since they have been feeling a little ill. I was a little sick too a week ago, but I got better pretty quick since my friend gave me an immune boost drink and a wellness shot.

11:55 PM

It's pretty late now and my parents are telling me to go to sleep since my father has trouble sleeping in the night, but I think I'm going to just stay in the living room watching tv while my little brother plays fortnite on his PC.

March 31, 2020- Astoria, Queens

9:15 AM

I just got up and brushed my teeth, I went to the living room and saw a plate filled with pound cake and hot chocolate, today I figured today was going to be a lazy Tuesday since there was no class today, neither was there any the day before or coming tomorrow so I just decided to kick it back and continue watching my show.

12:28 PM

I made myself a grilled cheese sandwich for lunch and I'm just getting on the PS4 to play with some of my friends either GTA or FIFA.

3:00 PM

After playing for a couple of hours I got bored and I'm just laying down in bed scrolling through my phone on this app called Grailed where I shop some of my clothes that I think are cool and try to get it for a low price. I recently found these shoes I've been wanting for a while now and I got it just for \$95 dollars shipped right to my house.

9:00 PM

I took a really long nap considering on how bored I've been at home, I'm not really a stay at home kind of person because being outside you get to witness something new and explore the real world, but I know because of the virus it isn't safe for anyone to go out.

12:45 AM

I'm currently listening to music and doing some of my homework for my other online classes especially my labs and homework for physics.

April 1, 2020- Astoria, Queens

10:25 AM

I woke up pretty late since the night before I was on the phone talking and I don't really want to be up since today is April fool's day. I know today is about jokes and laughing but it just sucks to see so many people struggling to survive and move forward. I know there is going to be a lot of memes on the internet, but I just hope people could actually take this virus into consideration and see what's happening.

12:55 PM

I actually saw a meme of my old high school and it actually made me smile and laugh. I've seen a couple of things today that actually made me laugh while others were just annoying me and taking this coronavirus crisis as a joke. I know many people have said this already, but I actually miss going outside.

3:00 PM

Lunch was made and my parents are still ill so it wasn't really the best but earlier this morning they went out to get checked up and get some medicine, I went with them to accompany them and there was a line outside the medical office, so many people waiting outside essential businesses while other stores are closed due to COVID-19.

6:42 PM

I've just been watching tv and on SoundCloud adding some unreleased songs that I haven't heard of to my playlist account which is what I really look forward to playing everywhere either in my ears or in the car when this quarantine ends, Also I have been watching my show and it just keeps getting better and better.

9:00 PM

Well I just had some penne all a vodka which is one of my favorite's and I think I'm going to sleep early tonight since I have class tomorrow and the break is finally over. But I'm really looking forward to my three classes plus I'm free Fridays too so I'm excited for my 3-day weekend.

SECTION 2: REFLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DIARY READING

I chose to read as my independent reading book Diary of a Wimpy Kid not only because it was my favorite back in grade school but also it shows true examples of how to actually write a diary. For instance, the audience such as myself can take so much information from the author Jeff Kinney. Such as reading Greg's humor throughout the book and show us his life through his perspective from being at home, going to school, going out and having something new to say every day. He wants the audience to realize that not every day will be the same as the day before or the next day that is yet to come, because anything can happen at any time so we have to seize every moment, minute and second that we have of our life. His approach was mainly being a comedian which was his true form of himself, he also really didn't care about how others saw him because he was happy with life except when it came to being popular. But he even had thought he may not have been the coolest, best looking or popular in his book, but what makes him unique is being

himself. No one could relate to him, his family, and to his friends since he had ups and downs with a lot of people, but still managed to continue with his diary. The tone was mainly being humorous and becoming true to yourself because if you write about yourself in a different perspective then what's the point of writing in a diary if you're not speaking your truth from your own mind.

It is written day by day, and with words in short to medium size sentences with some pictures along with it. I think having all of these can really help a reader get lost in the book because many people are interested in either words or just by looking at pictures. It affected me because making this journal for class gave me inspiration for why I should be thankful to be given this opportunity to not only show but tell my classmates about who I am as a person. It made me think of writing my own personal journal as good way to express myself just as Greg did. I learned a lot and when I read it this time I looked at the book in a different way as I did when I was a kid, understanding why the author did certain things and his techniques for expressing Greg the way he did throughout the whole book.

The format of the diary I chose to write was similar to diary of a wimpy kid as he wrote down the day of each entry and separated it by months. Which is pretty smart because you save time from writing your setting, the time and etc. But what I did was the opposite, I wrote with the location I was in, the time, the month, day and started off with "dear diary" for every first entry. But as I went through the book, I realized that it's actually easier than it looks, and I shouldn't have to make diary entries harder or more difficult than it should be. In the beginning of the diary Greg mentions that once he becomes famous, he wouldn't want to answer so many questions from his fans so making his diary which initially was supposed to be a "journal", would help people understand his life story. This may inspire my diary as it is filled up with mostly me. Everyone is different in their own ways so I feel like if everyone was to make their own diaries then you could tell a lot about a person without having to see them actually in person. For every diary or journal you would read it is unique from the rest, just like now we're all going through the same issue of being quarantined but we're all doing different things at the same time, and a few years from now we won't even think about what we did now because not everything in your brain stays forever but typing/writing words on a paper can stay for a lifetime.

Section 3: REFLECTION ON UNIT II AND GRADE

I did struggle because of the online learning distance, which I really regret not talking a lot in class but am really thankful for your teachings and lessons because it helped me see English not just as a subject but as a big idea. I do try though, as I always did from unit one, I try putting in the effort to show improvements from my work before. The diary entries were a little challenging because I didn't think I would be as good as Anne Frank or Greg Heffley but as I continued to read other people's entries and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid", I realized that it doesn't matter what you write because as long as you put feeling and express yourself through it you can

grab a lot of attention. So, understanding this gave me so much opportunity to play around with it and have fun, making it my own different from everyone else's too. It was fun reading a book that brought back so many memories while doing work I didn't think I would have done at all. There isn't something specifically I wish we could have done more but the work given overall was interesting even with the Zoom meeting we had with you opened up my eyes with my diary entries. I think I learned a lot from reading the book and other entries from my peers, since I get to hear from other perspectives during this quarantine. Nothing really surprised me, I just did the work as I was told, I will be honest most of the work I hand in I haven't really revised it unless it's a given task, such as making more than just one draft, because that is what improves writing making the words and sentence structures stronger. I think the work I hand in is substantially good, but revision wouldn't hurt since all it would do is make my work better. I don't do it as much because I lack time to revise a good amount of work. There is always room for improvement though, I can tell while I read other people's work it changes over time with new ways of expressing whatever it is that's on your mind.

I feel like I deserve a B or B+ because the work I do is on point in my opinion it's not the best in the class because there are going to be people better than you, its life so I'm okay with that but I say a B because I feel like I'm an average student. I feel like this for most of the work I handed in, if I get any higher then I would be a little surprised but not really since I hand in the work on time and I put in my full effort for each assignment. Even though I procrastinate a lot I still manage to get my work done, which is also rarely ever rushed through, I like putting my thoughts into paper so I can express myself better and clearer. Throughout my whole life I've been like a B or sometimes an A student, but I wouldn't complain with what I get since I know there are criteria's that must be met. For the diaries I must admit I was a little sick during these two weeks so I may have missed out on some details but I really did try to include what I did throughout my day, my parents have been under the weather too given that they went out shopping for food and taking care of other family members which are currently sick or in the hospital. I've seen and heard a lot of deaths lately not only coming from Tv but from families around me. This is a sad time for everyone which is why I think this is my challenge that I have faced, life just isn't the same as it was before, entering the Namn building on jay street going to class and sitting near the door/left side of the wall. Life is very different now but there is nothing we can do but adjust and move forward, its life there will be ups and downs but as humanity we must continue to move forward under any given circumstances. For Unit II I still think I deserve a B+ as a whole but the grade I received I think I deserve as my final grade for this unit.

UNIT III

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

Kenny Uruchima

MY SKILLS/ACTIVITIES ARE...

[What is an activity that you are pursuing doing this time that interests you? List more than one if you have more than one.]

1. Playing Video games (FIFA 20/Call of Duty)
2. Cooking
3. Listening to different artists/music

[Pick One from the above and see below what we want you to do next.]

1.

Well for starters I began making food when I was in 5th grade like making easy things, such as hot dogs, eggs scrambled specifically and toasting bread. They are pretty easy but as I got older, I soon learned how to make rice, bacon, Bacon egg and cheese on a roll, Sirloin steak, grilled chicken, and making chicken broth. I learned most of these things from my father, who was a chef for a French restaurant in the upper west side of Manhattan.

2.

I learned how to make steak with onion and tomatoes with rice, frying plantains, Chicken cutlet with penne and tomato sauce. I learned how to make chicken noodle soup and beef stew soup. Although cooking salmon which is my favorite fish to eat came out pretty good with just the right amount of seasoning and not overcooking it as well. I learned these dishes from my parents since my mother loves making soup and my father really knows about different types of meat and how to cook them depending on how cooked I want.

3.

The credit I give is to my parents and watching YouTube videos not anyone specifically but the people who help guide you into making whatever dish you want. Also watching MasterChef really got me into cooking other foods I have never even tried before. My parents have been working in the restaurant business for most of their lives and they even opened up a diner in queens, court square but it didn't end well since they ran out of business. I also loved the way my father cooked especially when he would tell me the key ingredient to making food is with love. But to be honest if you want to learn how to make any type of food you want you can always check YouTube. Also MasterChef is a show which my older cousin introduced to me ever since I was in 7th grade and I was very interested in how the show ran which had a certain number of people who had to cook under a time limit any dish they

could with the types of food they had in front of them. They had to make it really good, good enough for Chef Gordon Ramsey to like their food and he was known to be one of the most criticizing food critics' out of the other two judges in the show. They baked in the show too, but I don't really do baking because I like to think of it as pastries which mostly involve flour, bread and etc. I mostly like cooking foods that include animals that can be eaten.

4: Context/Brief explanation to explain your skill/interest

My interest/skill based on cooking has been through so many stories and experiences I have had ever since I was a little kid, such as my mother telling me one day if your father or I are gone how will you be able to survive if you don't cook. Being said that it was a really good point because I'd rather cook my own food since I know exactly what I'm putting into it. Also since my parents have worked in restaurants, my mother has told me various stories of how her coworkers from her past jobs cook carelessly, touching food with their bare hand or scratching their head or even dropping a piece of the dish and putting it back on the plate as it never happened which is why she prefers to stay home and eat. My father though on the other hand explained to me how his job as a chef in a fancy French restaurant which sadly closed down due to the owners not paying the taxes, made many types of dishes in a big group. The kitchen was broken down into certain parts, where there are soup-chefs, salad makers, cooks, him being the chef etc. Basically, this was called the line and every person had to put their part onto the plate and he would be the last person to receive it and see what it is that's missing or if it was ready to be brought out. Most importantly although they worked tirelessly/non-stop in the kitchen they had to do it quickly and just right since the customers would pay expensive prices for the dishes to come out perfect. After all his years of cooking his number one rule was to cook with love because if they don't put any care into the food you make then it wouldn't come out good but if you take the time your food might come out the way you want it, perfect.

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

Conversation:

Blue is Kenny Pink is Jennifer

Hey Kenny. My Snapchat user is [jenlinxd](#) or you can text me at 9173405508.

I have a few questions for you :)

1. **What is the hardest part when it comes to cooking?**

The hardest part is when you have to time putting the food in a pot or pan or wherever correctly, not too early nor too late. Since you want some foods to come out the way you want it to taste by delaying for a couple seconds can make the food dry or burn when you're not consistent. Most of the time you have to be consistent on what order and how you put/mix the foods together.

2. **Do you think your interest in cooking could be inherited from your dad since he is a chef?**

Yes, I think so since he has told me so many stories of him making food that I have never heard of before and how much fun he had doing something that he loved doing. Cooking is such a blessing especially if you know how to do it, you can make whatever you want when you want and you won't have to be unsure whether or not it's good because you're experienced and you know what you are doing. He did make cooking very important in my life because everyone needs food to survive so why not learn this essential skill of cooking. He has been in the restaurant business for so long, so his stories keep me interested and motivate me to be just as good as he was.

3. **How many siblings do you have?**

I only have one sibling who is younger than me and in 8th grade

4. **What is your favorite cuisine?**

Sadly, I don't have a favorite cuisine but my top 3 would be Spanish, Italian and American. Because Spanish specifically Ecuadorian cuisine is where my parents originated from and from their traditions they brought to the U.S which we eat almost every day, also Dominican Cuisine too such as plátanos (plantains)

and habichuelas (beans) with a side of rice and chicken or any meat of desire. There are much more that I like to cook but being broad such as other Spanish countries is what I really like cooking. Italian is one of my favorite's too because I love pasta whether it's with meat or seafood just having the fettuccine, penne, angel hair and etc. would make my mouth start drooling already. My father has made the best pastas I've had ever had but I have been attempting to do it the way he does because Italian cuisines require a lot of garlic for taste. Lastly American would be making burgers and fries or just making breakfast such as an omelet with home fries or bacon with scrambled eggs and home fries or just waffles and pancakes which are my favorite to eat for breakfast. My family and I are very broad, but we try to switch it up and not eat the same thing almost every day because you do get bored and would like to try something new.

Sorry Jennifer for responding very late but when you have the chance if you can answer some questions, I have of my own that would be wonderful :) and my Snapchat user is @qnzrome0 and my number is 646-468-4408

1. Have you always been an outgoing person ever since you were growing up?

As a kid, I was a very shy kid. I remember always being quiet and never talked as much. Maybe it was because of the language barrier since I moved back to the US when I was 7. As time went by, I started becoming more vocal because I started having the mindset of "I don't care what other people think if I am annoying, but I have to get it out there".

2. Have you tried any other activities such as sports, art, dancing, etc?
I used to do Taekwondo for two years until I couldn't balance going to practice, work, and school. I miss Taekwondo but it is hard to find time to put it into my schedule because the practice is at around 8 pm. I thought about going back after this term ended but Coronavirus happened.

3. Have you ever had any issues with communicating?

I can't think of any instances where I struggled to speak up. I did get into trouble a lot because sometimes my words are too straight forward and might have been rude. My mom mentioned that as a kid I was very sassy.

4. Lastly has there been anyone that you have had difficulty communicating with?

I find it very hard to talk to people that are very stubborn. Talking to people that are stubborn feels like you are talking to a wall, especially, when people ask for your advice or opinion, but they reply that I am wrong. Also, some parents that I have spoken to are so full of themselves or they refuse to believe that their kids aren't perfect as they think they are. All I want is to address the issues to them and I get a response where the parents either think it's not a big deal or that I am being dramatic.

Reflection:

After you communicate* with your partner, this is what you will both tell us in your shared PAIR document:

Blue is Kenny Pink is Jennifer

1. **What you have in common -- where you meet on common ground on a deeper level, as well**

Well for starters we have both attended an activity for self-defense and learning martial arts such as taekwondo/Karate. We both happened to speak up and put ourselves out there in the world whether it was with friends, family, or the people around us. One thing I can heavily relate to with Jennifer is finding it hard to communicate with stubborn people not only with cooking but when I'm trying to explain something to certain people they don't understand or try not to be very one-sided. I like to be straightforward as well as Jennifer does because there is no better way of getting your point across by saying what/ how you truly feel instead of throwing hints unless I'm going to hurt the person mentally I try to switch my words around sometimes to not make them feel bad.

We were paired together randomly by our professor. When I read his skill's document I wonder if she paired us together by mistake. I could not find a single topic that he mentioned in his skill worksheet would correspond to anything that I wrote. I decided to reach out and leave my contact in the pair worksheet. We asked each other a couple of questions and it turned out that we share similar aspects in life. We found out that we both attended martial art classes. Usually martial art isn't as popular as football or basketball, so I was a little surprised. We also share similar aspects with our personalities. We are both straightforward and speak up for ourselves, in a way we are trying to get our words through in a realistic way without purposely making it sound nice. We also found it hard to communicate to

others that are very stubborn. We both agree that it is a waste of time to communicate or give advice if they will be offended or not even listen to it.

2. What new thing(s) you learned from each other

I learned a lot of new things about Jennifer such as her being very outgoing, real, and confident. Not many people are like that and it takes real courage for someone to step up to those character traits coming from a different country at the age of 7. It's true though, not caring about what people think about you because holding back can make you miss a lot of opportunities in the future. Being outgoing isn't easy at all because there are many people who are shy, antisocial or just simply don't want to get involved, but by missing out on talking to other people you miss out on the bright ideas and thoughts they have which you as a person may have never thought of yourself either. Being realistic is what some people lack by living in a fantasy and not noticing real world problems or just any problem affecting you and the ones around you. Sometimes we all want to wish for the best but in reality, the world may turn on us making it hard for someone to face facts, but you must have courage to keep your head up and continue living on. Lastly, being confident and not cocky can get you so many places into your life by standing up for yourself/beliefs makes people know what you are talking about. Confidence doesn't mean show off or just brag about who you are but knowing that you are trying your hardest to reach your full potential and fall but still get back up and continue to push forward for whatever obstacle there is yet to come.

I learned a lot about Kenny's life and his love for cooking. I can tell that he is very proud of himself for being able to cook different meals every day and have it as an essential skill. Knowing how to Cook will ensure that he will not be starving and eating healthy home-made meals anywhere in the world as long as he has money to buy groceries. His interest in cooking was inspired by his dad and their cultural background. He has many different favorite cuisines like Spanish, Italian, and American. His family and him are not shy to try out different food from different cultures. Kenny also shares a similar aspect in personality as me. Kenny is not shy to speak up for himself and he is confident. He rather gets his true feelings out by communicating instead of hiding it from the fear that it would hurt someone. He does not like talking to people that are stubborn because the conversation is not productive, and it does not get anywhere. Lastly, he mentions being straightforward is not a bad thing because it makes you real and many appreciate it.

3.What new thing the other person pushed you to learn about your own skill

Something new I learned was to get out my comfort zone and look into cooking different types of cuisines that I have never thought of cooking before. Also communicating with others and explaining to them how cooking works and the procedure one must follow to cook. But learning how to work as a team with people can help make everything finish quicker and have fun while doing it too. I now know that learning how to cook new foods can be beneficial besides just cooking three different types of cuisines for the rest of my life.

Kenny mentioned that one of his favorite cuisines is Italian food. I always liked fettuccine and think it is such an awesome dish to eat at any time. Through the communication I had with Kenny I want to learn to make different Italian pasta dishes. I always had brushed off how to make it on my own because my mom doesn't like pasta. I should be more open and courageous and take a step toward making my own nice and creamy fettuccine.

4.What new perspective you gained from doing this exercise

A new perspective I have gained due to this exercise was to learn a lot about Jennifer although we have never talked in class, we have some similarities with each other. I think that by asking each other questions it helped both Jennifer and I gain a greater understanding of each other. It just took the right questions to ask for us to be comfortable and speak our mind to each other. I now know that maybe sometimes when there are two different activities being compared there can be some similarities in what you do and the people describing what they do can show how much you really are alike.

A new experience that I gained from this exercise is that 2 associates in the same class that never spoke before can have many similar perspectives of their personality. I think by putting our guards down and having a heartfelt conversation with someone, you can learn a lot about the other person. If we each put in the effort, then we will be able to discover the similarities between us. It was interesting that we were able to find a common ground between us despite the drastic difference between our skills. It was a great experience meeting a new friend at the end of the term, especially that I barely talked during class.

Personal Thought:

To be honest I felt the same way when I was younger, about not caring what other people think of you because it is the true friends who accept you for who you are. Regardless of your flaws no one would care about it because there's something about you that they like and are thankful for. Also, you are speaking up and out makes you confident/open minded because you could've just stayed to yourself for all this time but you decided to talk to other people and reach out for an opportunity you could have potentially missed in your life.

That's really cool though I used to do karate when I was like 11 and I used to love going but after a while I couldn't balance it because I had church school so my mother had wanted me to do the sacraments of my religion making me drop karate. I did it for one year and a half year. I don't remember since I was young, but I learned a lot and made a couple of friends. I was thinking of joining back, since my father had always been a strong and fierce man to me, he wasn't scared of anything which was him going to taekwondo learning about self-defense.

I like that we were able to find common topics by asking each other more questions and communicating. It is cool to see that we were able to relate although we never spoke in person. I also loved going to Taekwondo and I still think about going back but it is hard to find the time. I hope we both will be able to go back soon or later and fulfill our dream.

Section 3a: REFLECTION ON YOUR PAIR

My partner for the pair work was Jennifer Lin. At first, we didn't do so well since we hardly knew each other but once I got to answer and ask her questions of my own then the conversation took a quick turn. Later we worked really well with each other having similarities in the things we do/did. Our original connection was about how she talked about her past and I can relate to her because we were both outgoing and didn't care what people thought about ourselves as long as we put ourselves out there, that's what mattered the most. I just see some of the traits I have within her too being realistic, confident and very outgoing. The connection took a turn once we started asking each other questions, she was the first to ask me but I responded late to them thus making it harder for us to find similarities in very little time but once I asked her the right questions her responses shocked me because I never took her for someone to be outgoing. Our discussion didn't get a lot on a new level, but I am really glad we could relate to each other even if it wasn't through cooking but the way we are as a person. I asked her questions that related to what activity/hobby she chose which was being great at communicating. The comments are my personal thoughts of her answer to my questions. Jennifer had also asked me questions about cooking and how many siblings I had. It drove our understanding to a greater experience we would have never reached if never had we asked each other questions. I learned a lot about Jennifer and who she is as a person, we both shared similar experiences and characteristic traits making us get to know each other well. One of the biggest lessons I've learned was to try regardless of what others think, such as I can try my best to make specific plates for people but the thought of trying, putting in the time and effort is what really matters hopefully making the food I make very delicious.

Section 3b: OVERALL REFLECTION on this PROJECT AND GRADE

Discussing about my skills and interests helped the people in class understand me and see what I find amusing saying a little bit about me but showing what I like. Sharing them wasn't hard I felt comfortable and safe with the class environment I was in since you professor S made everyone feel welcomed and understand each other. At first, I was a little worried because of how you said we must put all of our work into unit III which was one of the smallest units we've had so I didn't think we had enough time to put everything together and set it up as we usually do at the end of every unit. But overall I really enjoyed the whole process I feel like I tackled all the tasks that were required for unit III except for contributing a lot into the "Our Class Diary" I didn't participate and put in a lot of information every day since I've been trying to adjust to writing an entry for everyday but I usually try to avoid from the news since I've had family members that passed away and my mother doesn't like looking at the news much, so I respect it. I was always interested though in the zoom meetings and just writing about we which is one of my favorite topics to write about because no one really knows you like you know yourself. Then working in pairs and seeing what similarities you and your partner(s) had made it really fun to

get to know each other. Things did develop for me as I had a greater understanding that it is good to update not only each other in the "Our Class Diary" but to everyone around us, this is the first time that a pandemic had arose drastically not only in New York but all around the world. The only struggle I had was keeping up with the class diary, but I think I succeed in most of the tasks given to me, trying to get straight to the point and elaborate with Jennifer during our pair work. I feel like we should have been able to relate to each other or discuss about past experiences or future goals we may have similar interests in instead of just focusing on a specific activity/hobby we do. All the work we've done thus far has worked for the most part I wouldn't really change much besides what I mentioned earlier because overall we got the work done and learned a lot about what we do and who our partners were. Relating each activity to what we do in one way or another. I also think I deserve a B+ or B as I received on my last project since I have done all the work except participate in the class diary but most of the work I have done, I put in the effort to make it right, listening and following your directions and contributing a lot of my work to class. The grade I received for this unit wasn't clear but whatever I have received I think is fair for my work's worth.