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**Course: ENG 1121, Sec 402**

**Professor. Schmerler**

**Date: May 20, 2020**

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**Unit 1 section 1**

My writing Journey

    I have been writing for as long as I was in public education and it has been an experience with a lot of trial and error. The first time I remember writing was the time I entered the first grade and the teacher had us write about the things in our everyday lives. I wrote about my Xbox 360, two rabbits and my Thomas the tank engine toys, which were the most important things to me at the time. My teacher was impressed by my writing and commended me after class which was ironic because during this time, I couldn’t spell my name. The next significant piece of writing I have done was research about the pilgrims’ journey to America in the fifth grade. When I was writing it, I couldn’t start, I procrastinated it until the very last minute. It wasn’t until I watched a Charlie Brown thanksgiving special on the pilgrims that I started to gain motivation to write the paper, I felt as if I would do well on it. A few days later my teacher handed back my paper and I got 4 on it, my teacher told me it was one of my best work I have ever done. At the time my teacher was very hard on me so considering this it felt good to be praised for my work by this teacher. His name was Mr. Laurent and I will never forget him as my teacher. I have only one significant experience writing in middle during grade eight, my teacher Mrs. Thomas made us write a report on the Rwandan genocide involving the Hutus and Tutsis. At the time my teacher was told to make us do a report on this topic because it was not in the curriculum, but she had us do the report anyway, she made us watch movies and documentaries on black history and the genocide. When I wrote this paper, I felt as if I wanted to cry because of all the atrocities that occurred, I had never written anything that raw. When I received my paper back from my teacher, I got an eighty-nine out of one hundred to my surprise, I didn’t expect to get such a high grade for it. I was praised heavily by my teacher for my work and how intelligent of a student I was, my teacher’s name was Mrs. Thomas. During high school I had not written anything I felt was significant until the eleventh grade, this was when my writing abilities were challenged for the first time. My teacher had the class write complicated pieces that involved juxtaposition, Marxist, feminist analysis, which usually involve extensive reading of books and watching movies. Prior to this I had always written research papers and sometimes argumentative essays but never analysis’, I knew I would be need to persistent. I felt my work had improved after having this teacher because not only did I do well on the content assigned, my teacher also gave back work with criticism in bright red ink. The teacher I had was named Mr. Martin, I felt as if he prepared me for college with the complexity and length of the work. After high school I entered college and I was nervous about the writing. My first English professor made me do something that was different than what I was used to, which was to write about myself with no rules on how to write it. He was not a fan of writing as if it were a chore, he preferred writing about something that gauged your own interest compared to how writing in public school usually had rules on how you had to write it. We only wrote one research paper, but it was about a topic that we wanted to write about. My professor’s name was Professor Corbett and he gave me a much more individual perspective on writing. My experience with writing was never a difficult one because I never had a teacher who put me down, I always had teachers who improved my writing skill.

**Unit 1 section 2**

The Inner outer assignments were very interesting to me when I first heard about it in class, it consisted of writing about your surrounding during your commute to school and going back home. The professor wanted us to write any noises we heard; and not just write down that we heard a certain noise, but rather, literally write down the noise as we heard it. I wasn’t used to assignments that allowed you to be more open-minded, I was always accustomed to teachers assigning work that was mundane and felt like a chore to be done. This assignment made me use my phone less when on public transportation and work on my observation and listening skills.

**Unit 1 Section 3**

For unit 1, I was able to see a very unique set of work assigned, I liked the inner outer dialogue as it improved my observation and listening skills, and it gave me a new perspective on different ways students can be taught. I realized that loading up students with work, isn’t the best method of teaching, Professor Schmerler sat with her students and did the work with them. She assigned work that made students expand and make more use of their minds and gain knowledge effectively. In terms of my performance in Unit 1, I believe that I deserve a B+. The reason I deserve this grade is because some of my work was of acceptable quality…not the quality it had potential to be. I also did all the work that was assigned to me and completed it in a perfunctory manner. Unit 1 was the only unit that was completed in class and was the unit I was most engaged in as I saw my peers in person.

**UNIT 2 Section 1**

March 24, 2020- Church avenue, Brooklyn,

New York

7:50 am

Dear Diary,

I just woke up and I feel eager today, because my friend invited me to play a pickup baseball game in Manhattan today with other ball players the night before. I know I shouldn’t be outside during these events with the virus but, I can’t turn down a baseball game. I just got done getting ready and I am about to head out.

9:05 am

I am on the B35 bus going to the F train to meet my friend at the McDonald avenue station. I didn’t see him on the train at first because the train was moving too fast, he told me in the middle. I am sitting on the cart toward the end and I will go to middle to see if I spot him, and I do end up seeing him, we are on our way to the field.

10:11 am

We are at the field now and it is very empty. There are no soccer players or little kids here (which is usually the case), there just a man with his rottweiler playing fetch. This virus has New York city appearing as a ghost town and it seems like total juxtaposition when those two words are regarding one another. I see only a few ball players here, but I know more will come soon.

3: 40 pm

I am leaving the park now with my friend, we all played two 9 inning games in the during of our stay. The weather got gradually warm since had arrived there and I am only wearing my compression. I am boarding now entering the train station and the train has arrived.

6:12 pm

I am now home after having taken a shower and put on clean clothes after coming out of my baseball attire, I will have to wash these clothes very soon before it gives my other dirty clothes a bad odor. I was decent in both games I played today, the first game they made me play second base and bat eight in the order. On defense I had 2 put outs and almost turned a double play but made a wild throw to first and for offense I went 1-3 with an infield single. For the second game I played in Left field and batted ninth in the order this time. For defense I had 3 put outs and got a runner trying to dig for a double and for offense I went 0-3 with 1 flyout, a strikeout, a groundout.

11:44 pm

I just woke up from my nap, thirsty, and I am about to watch some Law and Order SVU on Hulu. The episode was about a Billionare who was responsible for killing a teenager but couldn’t be held accountable. I then watch subway fights on Youtube until I had to go and sleep.

March 25, 2020

9:40 am I just woke up from my sleep and I see I have a missed call from my sister, I call her back and she tells me that she is bringing the dog over to the house (since our dog died 2 weeks ago, she brings her grandbaby over to visit me). I go shower and brush my teeth and get ready for my U.S history class online, it isn’t really a class it is just a forum to post your opinion on topics discussed in class.

11:30 am

I am now starting my Spanish course, it is fairly easy with only a few tests and some worksheets, it isn’t a live video chat course. Currently we are learning about family members and ser and estar.

12:50 pm

I am finished with my Spanish class and I get a call from my sister that she is downstairs with the dog, he is a Pitbull that is over two feet tall and 87 pounds, however he is very whiny and always needs attention from humans. When I bring him upstairs into the room the cat scratches him and make him crash into the wall., he doesn’t want to go near the cat after the previous incident.

3:45 pm

I am preparing to go to the park now with him after letting him sleep for some time since he arrived, he is excited and jumps around.

4:35 pm

We are now heading home from the park and he is tired, all we did was play fetch and tug of war with the rope.

6:50 pm

I am now playing modern warfare on the Xbox one, it is a really addicting yet challenging game. It has kept me up for hours.

11:30 pm

I am done playing my Xbox now, I am going to bed now

March 26

12:34 pm

I just woke up from a long sleep, I have to say, it feels good to be able to wake up and not worry about scrambling to get to class.

2:42pm I am now doing a Biology test on blackboard; it is really challenging but I know the material and I feel I can pass. I have another test right after this one.

6:00 pm

I am now finished with my tests; it took a while because some of the material is very challenging and require going back in your notes for reference. The first test I earned an 88, and for the second I received a 96. I am proud to say that because I know it counts toward my final grade.

6:15 pm

I am about to get started on my Spanish class activities on connect, these usually require a few hours of dedication every day.

9:15 pm

I finished all my Spanish activities for the day, and I am going to watch Desperate housewives on Hulu.

4:31 am (it is part of March 26 since I didn’t sleep)

I am up to season 2 episode 15, I binged watched a lot of episodes, since my last entry. It is very late or early (depends on how you look at it), I am going to prepare for bed now.

March 27

3:00 pm

I just woke up from sleeping and feel very refreshed, I appreciate the fact that I can sleep late with no consequences. I find it ironic that I say this on a Friday since I usually have classes at 11:30 to 2:00, but classes were cancelled for today.

4:00 pm

I am very hungry, and I am about to go to the Food Universe supermarket by my house to get some food so I can eat. I just bought some ground beef and mixed vegetables so I can make spaghetti and meat sauce.

7:23 pm

I am done making my food and it tastes delicious. I am trying to cook my own food more often because I don’t want to eat outside food and fall ill due to the COVID-19. I find it safer to simply know what is going into the food you are consuming.

March 28

12:38 pm

I am in my building’s lobby waiting for my dad to pick me up so he can drop me off at the baseball field to practice. My friend and his father are there right now taking cuts.

1:25 pm

I now arrived at the ballfields and I am going to prepare to practice

7:45 pm

I am done practicing now and got a ride home from my friend with his dad. For practice, we hit fly balls to each other and taking ground balls in the infield. My friend has a lot of power, so he kept hitting a lot of the balls over the fence. I was mostly hitting line drives in the gap and to center field but never over the gate.

March 29

12:12 pm

I just woke up and now I am about to get ready for the day, I think I may have come down with a sickness, a cold I think, and I want to get rid of it soon.

12:53 pm

I am done showering and brushing my teeth. I am now going to eat breakfast, which will be fruity pebbles. I have never understood why fruity pebbles get so soggy after a while, it tastes like you’re eating sugar paper. To be fair, I do microwave my cereal so that could attribute to why it always comes out soggy.

1:30

As always, I find myself with nothing to do during this quarantine. I am going to binge watch desperate housewives to take away from my boredom (Its very funny because I have watched this series 5 times over and still forget certain events that happen throughout the show. In essence, I am basically watching a new series every time I watch it).

7:00 PM

I must stop watching desperate housewives so I can start on my Spanish work. I feel as if my Spanish is getting better, I have been studying Spanish since 11th grade so I think I won’t struggle anytime soon. The only time I struggle with Spanish is when someone speaks to me fast and when I must respond to it. In my opinion I would rather learn Dutch than Spanish

**UNIT 2 Section 2**

Diary of a wimpy kid is a legendary book that is now entrenched in the minds of all young kids and adults who have read it when it was first incepted. The book follows a boy named Greg Heffley, who usually finds himself trying to overcome a predicament. Whether it is him facing growing up, trying not to go to military academy or trying to prevent a secret from getting out. The fashion in which the book is written is with simple and casual language, so that the reader can feel the comedic effect more. The book’s font style appears to be that of a young school kid, which I believe makes the reader more comfortable when reading and not tense as if it were a novel. The signature piece of the Diary of a wimpy kid series is the illustrations that is featured. The illustrations gives the reader something to laugh about when they are following along in the story, such as a character slipping, using the toilet or peeking out the shower, it makes this book one of a kind to read.

I first started reading this book in 2009, back when I was in the fourth grade. My friend brought the book to class and I noticed it was an interesting deep purple color. I asked him what book that was, and he told me “Diary of a wimpy kid”, I then asked if I could borrow it from him and he told me sure. I took it home and started to read it and was very pleased by what I was witnessing, this book was nothing like I have ever read before, it was comedic, depictive and juvenile, this was any child’s dream book. After I finished the book I noticed it wasn’t the first one because I saw the other books in the series somewhere in the back of the book, the book I read was The ugly truth version. I have not read Diary of a wimpy kid since 2011, however, if I had to write a children’s book, I would model it after this one

**UNIT 2 Section 3**

For unit II I did struggle for the latter half, the reason for this was mainly the distance learning. The reason the distance learning was a struggle for me was due to me being unmotivated to complete the work, I really did not want to do the work. When I have to wake up and physically be present in class, it makes me motivated because I have a teacher and other students to interact with just in case I fall to a misunderstanding, it also helps that we would have paper assignments and physically journal entries to do. I also miss the writing entries where we had to describe what we would see in transit. I don’t like the journal entries that we have to upload to Openlab because I like experiencing my day and not have to stop and record all my actions, however, I do think it is good that the journal entries are mandatory because now I can look back and see all the things I have done on a specific date, especially during a unique time like this. I did find some motivation from professor Schmerler because she would always do the work with us and explain it as clearly as possible. She also completed the assignments in such a way that would be relatable to us students, that is to say, professors are usually seen as scary authoritarian figures that want to make student’s lives harder, but she makes us become better writers and communicators.

The grade that I think I deserve for this class is a B or B+. The reasoning for this is that I always do my assignments when I need to and how I need to, I do them a little above expected but not in any spectacular fashion. I did hand in two assignments late on Openlab but that is because of this drastic change of how schooling is conducted, however there was in class work before the distance learning, and I always participated and did my work in the journal. One thing I will admit is that I had a problem with grammar in my writing. The problem is that I usually would write an assignment as I was doing it, meaning, I wouldn’t write a first draft and revise it, I would just hand in the raw product of my work. I never had a problem with the content of my work, but I just need to proofread and point out errors before handing it in as my final product.

**UNIT 3 Section 1**

Farley Grainger

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. Baseball

2.Drawing

3. Gaming

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

**1.Here You will tell us a little bit about WHAT YOU ALREADY KNEW BEFORE the confinement/what your experience has been with this skill/activity.**

When it comes to baseball I always knew it was a way to pass time and have fun and that it was a very popular sport. I first started playing at 13, and at the time, the Boston Red Sox won the title, and my favorite player was Xander Bogaerts (a Dutch player) who was amazing at defense and a decent hitter. During this time, I was starting to understand the concept of baseball more. For example, baseball is played counter-clockwise, which means every batter takes turns etc. This sport was unique to me in the sense it was much different than sports such as hockey, football, basketball, and soccer because of how fast paced those games are compared to the slow paced and meticulous fashion that baseball assumes, games can last up to hours and are very unpredictable. It is a very fair sport because size does not necessarily give a player an advantage, skill does. Over the years I have learned more about the sport while also gaining a new idol, Byron Buxton. Buxton is a Center fielder for the Minnesota Twins, who is extremely great at defense and has immense speed.

**2. Here You will tell us SOMETHING NEW you learned about it during this confinement period. If you haven’t learned anything new, then go out now and find out something(s) that you didn’t know about it before!**

One new thing I learned about this skill was playing a different position, Shortstop. Despite the fact everyone must stay quarantined, I still go outside and practice but with social distancing. My friend’s father taught me that playing shortstop is about having range and having fast instincts. I also learned that shortstop requires a very strong arm to throw a runner out because since shortstop is further away from first base, a throw must be released quickly with enough speed to record a putout. When I was practicing my throws from shortstop, I realized I have a good arm at the position, however, I did have trouble working the short hops( a short hop is the description of a batted ball’s erratic movement as it is coming to a player, the movement may possibly cause a fielder to commit an error). I also have been watching Youtube videos on how to play the position properly.

**3. Here You Will Give credit to THE SOURCE(s) of this new information and tell us bit more about this/these sources and why you like them. Show us where we can go to find them.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDf2BjwaLI0>

The link above is a Youtube video teaching how to properly play shortstop and many different mistakes a player should fix when playing that position. The instructor of this video is former MLB player Matt Antonelli, who became a very well-known youtuber after his professional career. He touches on almost every topic of baseball. I like his videos because he is very explicit when it comes to explaining and he uses videos of other players when explaining to his viewers. Another thing he does that I am fond of is using diagrams in his explanation, which is different than what most popular baseball youtubers do, but it is still a big help, nonetheless.

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

If I had to explain my interest, I would say it is very exhausting. The reason playing SS(acronym for Shortstop) is tiring is the fact that it takes a big amount of responsibility to play. It can be fielding hard hit balls at a tough angle, being fast, having a strong arm, taking charge of infield fly balls etc. After practicing SS, you may find yourself extremely sore and with cuts and scrapes on your legs, and sore knees. If anyone who is interested in baseball wants to try out this position, they should watch Youtube videos and watch major leaguers play. I would even go as far as telling anyone who wants to become a better leader or be in a leadership position to study the shortstop position. The reason I would recommend this is for the simple fact that SS is a position based around leadership, as they are referred to as “the captain of the infield”. A shortstop has plenty responsibility to bear, and it would give you a helpful on what you need to do to be a better leader.

**UNIT 3 Section 2**

**Section 2: Inquiry -- YOUR INVESTIGATION OF OTHERS’ SKILLS AND WHAT YOU LEARNED TOGETHER**

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

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

K: From a short glance of what you have written I realized that we are both sportsmen who are passionate about our craft and have a genuine love for sports.

F: Yes we have much in common as sportsmen as we know about our craft and know what takes to excel at the sport.

K: I realized you started playing at a young age, I used to play soccer as a pastime when I was a kid. My time would entail running around aimlessly kicking the ball, I had no sense of what exactly to do also there was no structure to my game. As I got older and continued to play, and I joined a soccer academy where I was able to nurture my raw talent and play the sport in a more structured way. By learning all the rules that affect the flow of play. I also played competitively in high school winning two championships, while also playing in the first and premier divisions of my country's national league.

???? ask questions of each other….

K:So tell me what made you gain interest in baseball? What spark or significant moment you had that made you develop the love you have for the sport?

F: I gained interest from my mom when she suggested that I join an outside baseball league for the summer. I never did play in the league, but I started watching pro baseball more and more. I did not actually start playing until freshman year of high school, and like you, I did not know much about baseball and mostly had raw talent. It was not as until I got older that I started to gain more skill and knowledge about the game.

F: Do you still play soccer still to this day?

K: Yes, I still play soccer during spring and summer when I have more free time. I have not played competitively in a long while though, I mostly play to keep myself fit and it is fun and stress relieving.

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

F: I learned that soccer is almost inoperable without socializing. Soccer takes people coming together and playing the game, similar to baseball and how every player literally needs one another to keep a game flowing. Soccer requires physical toughness, similar to that of baseball.

K: I have learned that we both have similarities in how we got introduced to our respective sports and that we both love and enjoy the competition and brotherhood formed by playing sports. He did not start playing competitively until high school which was also similar to how my competitive career started.

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

**F: Kebeon pushed me to learn why more people don’t exhibit the act of brotherhood. What I mean by that is when a lot of people play baseball, they are only worried about their own performance and want to make themselves look good. Some baseball players don’t care about their teammate’s performance and won’t help them gain confidence when they have a bad game. I just want to understand why a lot of people don’t socialize more when playing this game.**

**K: Farley pushed me to realize that brotherhood in playing team sports is extremely important to have a great team performance and it also promotes a stronger bond with teammates. Playing soccer relies a lot on how well each member of the team communicates and works together.**

4.What new **perspective** you gained from doing this exercise

F: A new perspective I gained from this exercise is that no matter what sport you play, it will always require some sort of team effort to be successful. I even started to realize that baseball is a metaphor for life in the sense that when you play baseball you have to rely upon your skill rather than your physical advantages. I also realized in baseball you will fail a lot, but it is about how you recover from the failure and try to stay consistent.

K: From this exercise I have realized that no matter where you were raised there are people from different cultures that share the same upbringing and experiences that you have. We also share similar characteristics and the determination to strive for greatness in whatever we do.

**UNIT 3 Section 3a reflection on pair**

Me and my partner (Kebeon) were both late to do our peer assessments for the skill project, however, I instantly realized that we both related to one another about our topics. I wrote about baseball and he wrote about soccer. These two sports may seem to contradict one another, but when we were doing this assignment, we found that ourselves and both these sports had plenty in common. When Kebeon explained soccer, he told me that it was a very physically demanding sport and that he had to learn how to play the sport from when he was young. He did not know what he was doing at first, but he started to pick up his skill and got good, which is very similar to my situation. I also expanded upon Kebeon’s notion that soccer is a sport based upon brotherhood and used that to explain how baseball is the same way too. I realized baseball is all about communication and working together, like a brotherhood. I originally put a great deal of emphasis on me learning about the shortstop position, but then I started talking to Kebeon and further expanded more on my thoughts on baseball as a whole, to which I gained my own theory. The theory I realized was baseball is a metaphor for life, and thanks to working Kebeon I have been trying to figure out more about life and baseball.

**Unit 3 Section 3b self-assessment**

Unit 3 was very interesting and by far the best unit I have done this far. I say this because I was able to express my skill to people that I didn’t know and look at what skills they possess. I felt as if I saw a bit of their character and learned more about what kind of person they might be, for example, Briana explained her love for gaming and Nakiah explaining the history of makeup. Unit 3 was the most expressive assignment in the sense that we were able to explain our skills and do more research on it. I felt as if I had much more freedom and fun with this assignment as I paired up with Kebeon and learned something new about his sport, and a new theory about my own sport. I liked how some students that were paired, didn’t have very similar skills and were pushed to be more open minded in finding common ground with one another. I thought it was great how professor Schmerler would go on zoom calls with us and take interest in our individual skills and ask us questions about it. The grade I think I deserve is an A-. The reason for that is I explained my skill in a very understanding way for someone who does not know much about baseball. I also felt I improved writing in concise language, grammar, and punctuation usage for this assignment, which I struggled with in earlier assignments and projects in this class. I started my project later than expected, but I did find a way to pair up with someone and get the job done well while learning some new things in the process. I felt I wrote what was necessary in my assignment, I did not sprawl or include unnecessary content. I found this assignment to be helpful to my inquisitive self and being more open to learning about my peers in the future.