

FINAL PORTFOLIO

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COURSE: ENG 1121 Section 402

PROFESSOR: Schmerler

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MY JOURNEY TO ENGLISH 1121

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my JOURNEY

"My Journey" - my Narrative as a Student in English Class this Semester.

As I reread my unit 1 reflection, my mind took me back to the time we were in class together having our circle time, all of us in one place. A lot has changed. I felt how my mood was then, so perky and full of life ready to learn. None of us knew we would get to this point in our lives. Bored out of our minds, nothing to do. I still remember our last face-to-face meeting, when we were talking about Corona being man made? "CONSPIRACY" or when we found out that subway "Cart" was actually called "Car" that was unexpected. Our whole lives we thought it was a cart. The good old days.

When I started the semester, I thought I was going to spend the next 3 months reading classics, discussing them and then writing about them. That's what I did in my previous English courses, so I didn't think it would be much different here. However, this class was not what I was expecting at all. We managed to learn a lot. Mostly fixing our writing, starting with drafts all the way to the final paper. We used different methods like diaries, blogs and group/ pairs activities. Who knew that writing diaries can help you improve your writing. I wrote a paper in the beginning of the semester on "My journey to writing", my elementary school teacher made me write in a journal to improve my communication skills/ english. But

when I was little I thought it was chilled play. When Professor Schmerler gave us this assignment I took it more seriously and it actually helped me with my grammar and punctuation .

Although things didn't go as planned this semester, it was very interesting. We got to talk about our skills and what we were passionate about, which was cool. I paired up with Antonio who loved to bake. Another great activity we did was the daily blogs which we got to share our experience during the corona pandemic. I read about how people were pulling through it and it gave me hope that I wasn't the only one stressing during quarantine.

There were a couple of things I wished we could have done if we had more time, but unfortunately this semester has come to an end. The second part of our pairs assignment for example, we were to choose a skill from anyone in our class and try it out for ourselves. That would've been an interesting challenge. I really want to read more books as a class, it gives more energy rather than me reading by myself. I get bored and stop in the middle. My time as an english 1121 student has allowed me to hone my skills and explore my interests in a way that has always been both intellectually challenging and an immense pleasure.

Thank you.

UNIT I

English 1121 Sec D-402

03/04/20

CONTENT:

- SECTION 1: Journey to writing
- SECTION 2: Inner outer assignment
- SECTION 3: Unit Reflection

Passing With Time

It began when I was in the 3rd grade. My homeroom teacher saw me struggling with making friends because I was the new kid who barely spoke English. She told me to write whatever came to my mind, even if it didn't make sense. She said I would eventually learn how to form a sentence and how it should be spoken by myself. So I started to write in the morning in school at home before I went to sleep in a pink journal. That pink journal was filled with words and sentences at the end of that school year. I continued to practice this until the 4th and 5th grade.

I started to write about my day, my friends, everything. Even though most of my journals were essentially gibberish and no one else would understand, I knew exactly what each story told. When I got to middle school I stopped. I guess I thought it was too childish for me to do. As I got older I had more things to do more stuff on my plate. But now that I think

of it, it would've been a good opportunity to learn even more. The only writing I did at that time was school work like my assignments that's it.

As I got older my writing habits changed how I write and when I write. In high school I wrote to get the assignment done. Now I write to make my writing sound professional and mature, but that doesn't work well sometimes. When I would reread my work sometimes I would tell myself, "what the hell am I trying to say?" I forget the thought itself. I get so caught up in trying to make it perfect I forget what it is I was trying to write.

Currently all my writing has been in 2 places. I love to write in quiet places, no one but me and my thoughts. The second place is on the train. Starting with the quiet place, it would be me in my room on my bed between the hours of 9am-12pm. Why this time you ask? Because not too early in the morning for me to still be sleepy and not too late in the afternoon for my head to be ambushed with thoughts and things to do. Everyone is still sleeping only me and my thoughts. I'm the only one up. I can write freely with no distractions. My second favorite spot is on the train. I know a big difference from quiet to the train. But I guess I can say it depends on what I'm writing that I would know what best suits my brain to function properly.

Sitting down with a pen and a paper in my hand inspiration all around me. I like it there because time passes by and I pass with it. It doesn't just pass while I'm sitting in that same place I was at a minute ago,

we're both moving at the same rate. That's the difference between writing at home and writing on the train, I don't have to worry about the time running out. Time flies by so fast when I'm sitting down in one place. I put my head down and drowned in my thoughts. I look up an hour passed by. It's easier for me if I were traveling from one place to another, that gives me a specific time because I tend to get carried away when I'm writing. Once I start there are so many thoughts I can't stop.

Sometimes when I'm blocked from writing I turn on my current movie or show and watch it till I relax and my brain starts to work again then while I'm watching the thoughts come rushing back then that's hitting two birds with one stone. I always thought about how the people that listen to music and write concentrate but I guess it's the same as me watching my show and writing, there both relaxing our brains in a way.

Everyone struggles with their writing sometime, whether it's trying to find a word to start a sentence or trying to conclude your writing. I struggled with spelling, running on sentences and sometimes making sense. I've heard the phrase "Every first draft sucks" so many times but for me it sucks till the 10th. I sometimes get frustrated with redoing it so many times I give up in the end. But most of the time it works out well. One thing about my writing that I really don't like is having to go back and read it. I don't know why but I don't want to hear how cheezy or stupid I sound when

Im writing, I'd rather the teacher read my work and point out the mistakes then give it back.

SECTION 2: Inner outer assignment

On Jan 28 at 7:08am I came out of the house to go to school. As I began walking towards the train, I couldn't help but notice that there was no one walking or driving on that block usually there's school kids waiting for the bus or store owners opening their stores but nothing, it was like I was the only one there. I got to the train station and luckily there were people there (phewww). I was starting to think It was a holiday and I was the only one going to school. I was filling up my metrocard when the alarm for the train approaching rang. I swiped my card and rushed to catch the train as I was rushing. I saw this lady struggling to take her stroller up the stairs so I decided to help her, I couldn't just walk past her and not help. So I grabbed the end end of the stroller and started to walk up. Both of us walked fast to catch the train. Luckily there was a man holding the door for us, how nice of him. I really didn't want to be late for class and waiting for the next train is annoying.

2/3/2020

Mornings are really boring; everyone walks like zombies either half a sleep or dragging themselves where they gotta go. Today's inner outer assignment has to be inside of a moving object, so I picked the train. I'm

sitting down by the window seat, looking around feeling like a creep. As I look around there are people who are asleep or on their phones, the usual. There is this man sitting down, facetimeing someone. He caught my attention because he was eating Mickey D's sandwich with a drink too. I looked at him like, is he okay? It's 7:45am and this guy is eating fast food. Anyways I looked away before it got weird, imagine he caught me staring (lol) it would've been awwwkwaarrrrddd.

Reflection unit 1

English 1121 - D402

February 19, 2020

With completing the first unit of English 1121, I was able to benefit from many new things in this class, as well as refresh my memory on things that I already knew, all I needed was a reminder.

When I was in the 3rd grade english was my second language. I couldn't read or write but I was a determined little girl, If I wanted something I was gonna have it. So I did all I could do to read and write faster because I didn't want to be the outcast in the class. By the end of that year, I was fluent in english but I was still struggling with writing. Others struggled with time management, I was always good at completing

my assignments on time, so managing time wasn't a problem for me as long as I understood the instructions then there's no problem.

Meanwhile, you know when you're working on something that you think you're doing good in but when you get the results, the outcome of that work isn't quite what you hoped you'd get. That's me!! The problem is for years I've always wondered why? Somehow there's been a glitch somewhere in my head but I don't know what it was. It's what was holding me back from fulfilling the ultimate goal of sounding professional and adequate while writing.

However with this weakness that I had I discovered some hidden strengths about myself. I'm really good at painting a picture when I'm writing. I was given an assignment last semester in my creative writing class. I had to write a paper to a group of high-school students telling them what to expect in their first year of college. When my professor gave me back my paper she encouraged me on this hidden talent of mine. She said that it would help me with my writing to make it stronger. I didn't know how it would make it better at the time but, I held on to what she said until this unit. I figured out what she was trying to tell me.

I found out how to get rid of that glitch by the end of this unit using that piece of strength that I have. We were handed two readings, "Shitty First Drafts" by Annie Lamontt and "Internal Process: A process Of Discovery" by Donald Murray. I really enjoyed reading them. It wasn't what I

expected. At first I thought that they were gonna be the same boring readings we read every english class I take but I was wrong. I understood what each writer was trying to say, especially the one by Annie lamontt. Her style of writing was straightforward and easy to understand. She had some interesting points on "first draft." What drew me into her writing was perfectionism. "Perfectionism is the voice of the appraiser, the enemy of the people." She couldn't have said it any better. As soon as I read this I knew that was one of my biggest weaknesses.

The second one with Donald Murray was somewhat similar. However, something that I thought was interesting was that we both don't like re-reading our work to ourselves. We don't want to hear how cheesy or stupid we sound. This was also part of that glitch that I was talking about because I never go back to see the mistakes that passed through me when I'm writing.

Finally, the last key to unlock the mystery for my writing was simplicity. Sounding as simple as possible, making the words flow without stressing about choosing the right one at the time because when you go back to revise, a word might pop up then choose which one best suits the idea you are trying to convey. This class really helped me and this is just the beginning. I'm excited to see how my writing will be at the end of the semester.

Professor Schmerler made this class one of a kind. It was really fun. It's not just a lecture she talks and we listen to. She makes us active whether it's the circle she makes us do or the sound wave of her name she makes us pronounce "Schmeeeeerrrrllleeerrr" or the idea that everyone has to reflect on each other's work. She helped make peace with my writing with the work she chose for us in class. It helped me understand what it was that was holding me back. I love her energy. I feel like she really understands her students and makes them understand themselves and connects them with their work, tuned with our words.

05/16/2020

As I'm rereading this now I don't know how or what to say. I don't even know what I had written. A lot has changed since then. This unit was the getting to you each other phase. We weren't that connected to one another, like we are now. I still stand with what I said here. The grade I got for this unit was B+ but the professor asked me to revise it and it would be an A but I never got the revised grade because that's when the corona situation started. I would still give myself an A.

UNIT II: MID SEMESTER-GENRE

04/04/20

CONTENT:

- **SECTION 1:** Diary excerpt 1 and 2

- SECTION 2: Anne frank's diary reflection
- SECTION 3: Unite reflection

Section 1: Extended Diary Excerpt 1&2

March 24: Day 1 CAESAR'S BAY, NEW YORK

5:10pm

Dear Diary,

Today Is the 3rd day of quarantine. Honestly I don't know how to feel about this anymore. I have a whole load of emotions going on. I feel like I'm missing something but I don't know what it is.

5:20pm I'm sitting on bed with my pink furry blanket on. I just finished doing my chemistry homework which was so annoying (btw), I don't even know if the answers are correct but to hell with. My head is killing me from reading too many chemistry things. As I sit there wondering what's next, I get that same feeling again. What is it? I tell myself I try to remember if I'm missing something but nothing comes to mind, enough of this thinking mumbo jumbo I hear my mom calling gotta go bye.



FURRY BLANKET



Alexa

I just had to come back and write this. My sister is so bored with her life right now, she's talking to ALEXA telling her she's so bored and that my dad took away her phone. I couldn't stop laughing.
#quarantine

Alexa

DISCLAIMER: If you haven't noticed by now I really love the color pink. My whole room is pink, but not the kids kind of pink, it's classy and elegant.

MARCH 25 Day 2:

I was in my biology online class today at 10 am, very boring. All my professor did was literally read off the slides. I could've done that on my own time instead of waking up and listening to him read. I was really sleepy. I couldn't keep my eyes open till 2am yesterday. All

because I'm so hooked on this show called "Kosem Sultan." It's about this Turkish king and his wife named Kosem, how they battled everyone around them for wanting the crown, they killed everyone who gets in their way anyways back to the class to be honest I wasn't going to read the slides I'm just saying I could, I just wanted to sleep.



It was 10 min to class ending when a student asked the professor about an email CUNY sent out to everyone about online classes closing from march 27 to April 2. That's when I really opened my eyes because as much as I like the whole online classes thing I don't want to wake up at 8 for them. I was so happy to hear that, I got up dancing and finally I can sleep till 12 in the afternoon like the rest of my family. What a relief. To top this news, that same student added that spring break was going to be held from April 8 to April 10 three more days the professor told her what? Are they crazy? Why don't they just close school for the rest of the semester whoever "THEY" Are? We all started laughing. He said that there wasn't going to be time to do actual work. He made a good point actually but who cares. We just want to sleep.



THE EMAIL

So last night around 12am, I went on webwork to see if my math professor uploaded the quiz and when I went on it, I accidentally opened it. I went back real quick though. At the time I thought it was fine and didn't count but when I went on just now 5:30 pm, It said that my time ran out and that it was closed :(I'm so bummed right now I emailed the professor to open it but she hasn't replied yet. Let's just hope she emails me back and opens it because I have her in the morning at 8:00 sharp so fingers crossed.

March 26

10:00am

Update I just had my math class, I wasn't the only one having trouble with the quiz so the professor finally announced that although webwork won't let her re-open the quiz she's still going to help us out by adding another quiz this week and cancel the other one and for the people that didn't have trouble she'll just take the highest grade.

DIARY EXCERPT 2

March 28, Saturday

4:20pm

Quarantine day??? I've lost count. I did not know it was going to be this boring staying home. all those times I wished to stay home and not go out with my mom I take it back no way in hell I'm going to say that again.

My family gets together every weekend, we went from that to being trapped in the house doing nothing. We still FaceTime but it's not the same. We play bored games on facetime which is fun for a bit but turns into a downier after a little while. what can I tell you, there's nothing interesting no more it's like my life is in this loop that is repeating itself. Wake up, eat, sleep, walkup, eat, sleep.

omg the food brooooo I know some of you love homemade food and yes I do too but when you're the one cooking it every single day hell no. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner kill me please. I swear when this quarantine S**** ends I'm gonna order take out for a month. matter of fact no I'm going to eat out every day for a month.

March 29, Sunday

5:16pm

My dad just asked me to get him pizza from the pizzeria near my house without telling my mom. so I got dressed and told my mom I was going to the neighbors for a bit. I went out and when I got my luck, they were closed -_- . Bummer all this work for nothing. I went home when I was telling my dad, my mom overheard us talking and she started laughing and said this what happens when you go behind my back. She decided to make homemade pizza. we made three pies two for us and 1 for the neighbors



March 30, Monday

12:50pm

I can't believe I've lasted this long without Starbucks. It's been since we last had physical classes, at least the Dunkin near my house is still open. I've gotten caramel lattes 4 times since I've been in house arrest so far, and no I didn't go out my neighbors got it for me. They can't live without ice coffees lol so I just ask them to get me one on their way.

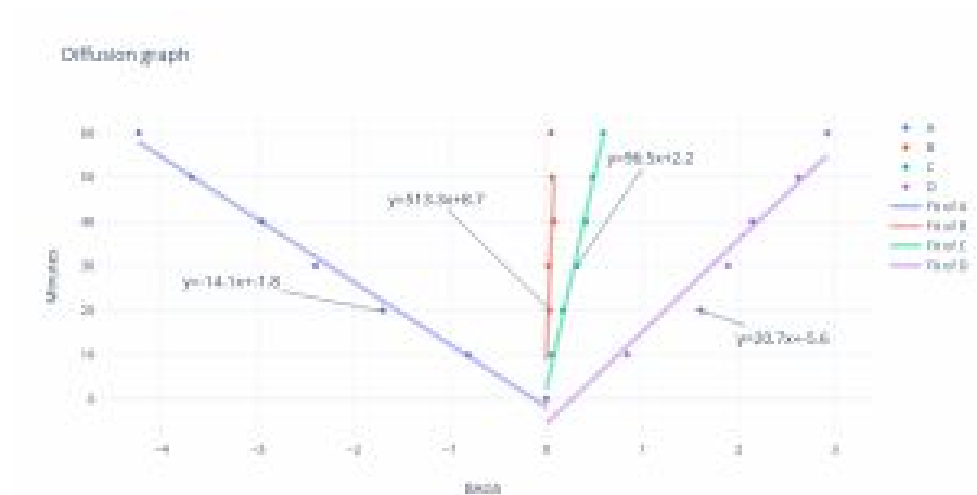
Today, my brother got me those Starbucks glass Frappuccino that you buy anywhere and a muffin. That was the closest I came to a Starbucks drink ... I don't really like them that much but it's better than nothing.



March 31, Tuesday

Today was literally homework day. I woke up at 10:50, made breakfast, cleaned the house then chilled for a while, then at 2:00 I started my bio homework and believe me when I tell you I'm not done. from 2:00 to 7:00 all I did was a stupid graph.

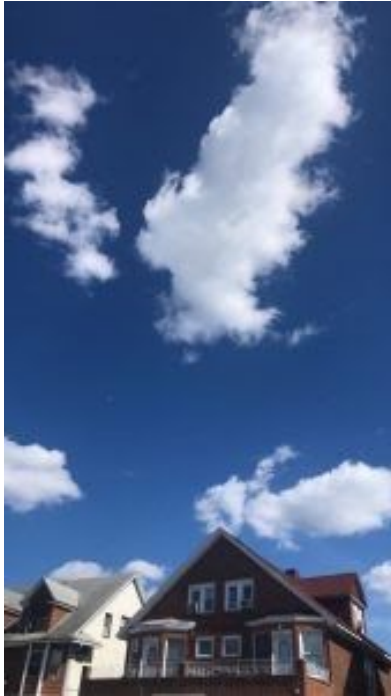
The professor gave us this complicated piece of shit graph for no damn reason that took me and two other girls in our group the whole day but at least we finished it and all that's left is the conclusion



APRIL 1, Wednesday

Every year on this day my friends and I used to have the time of our lives pranking our families for April fools. We would literally FaceTime to show each other the reactions of our family members. by the end of the day I would have scared all of my family members but my dad. I never got him it's like no matter what I did he doesn't even flinch, ugh which gets me soooo annoyed. but that's beside the point because today is April 1, Wednesday April fools and it feels like a lazy Sunday. My family is all over, some are laying on their beds and some are sleeping and I'm the only one hopping around the house trying to find something to do. I've never felt this bored in my entire life :(:(and to top it all the weather was so pretty today :(:(

#corona sucks



April 2 Thursday

okay let's see its 10:00pm I'm sitting on my bed trying to recall any stories or anything intersecting that's worth telling but nope nada nothing lol that's my sisters name is NADA anyways ooo yes my mom and I made cake today and it was delicious sooooo good here i'll insert a picture of it y'all can drool over it hahahaha lol im weird....

#when boredom strikes



FRIDAY April 3

.... Nope still nothing it's still boring its 12:02 my family is getting ready to go to the mosque to pray jum3ah yeah no, were tired of this quarantine sh*** were going today gotta go byeeeeeee

Section 2: extended diary reflection

I don't remember if I read Anne Franks' 'Diary Of A Young Girl' in high school but, as I read it now it sounds a lot like 'Incidents in life of a slave girl' by Harriet Jacobs. I really enjoyed reading that book, I felt like I was living it in her words, I didn't want it to end. When I started reading Anne Frank's diary it was my surprise to hear her talk about what happened to her and her Jewish family during the Nazi days. Jacobsen wrote about slavery and Anne Frank wrote about the Nazis two different areas yet very much alike.

While reading Anne Frank's diary I noticed that she used a character named Kitty to treat her diary as if she were writing to a friend. I thought that was really clever of her. She started writing in her diary because she had no one to confide in so her diary was her friend in a way. I also couldn't help but realize how she found the brightness in every situation despite the hurtful condition she was in. Even though she isn't in the greatest mind/place, she

finds something good in it. For example, she said "As long as you look fearlessly up into the heavens, as long as you know that you are pure within, then you will find happiness.

Anne spends most of her life in a terrible time when Jews were persecuted; yet, her belief in the goodness of people is amazing. She states several times in her journal, even when the family is in hiding from those who want to kill them, that she still believes that people are inherently good. I don't know what it is about her diary that felt pure. Maybe it's her positivity that's the most memorable theme in her writing. It brings the upside to writing/situations. I loved how her hope and love for god and her family helped her become a stronger person, it made her words speak from the heart not just words written on a paper.

"The Diary of Anne Frank" presented the true depths of the Nazi time. Not just those Jews who managed to avoid the Nazis did not come out of WWII unscarred. But there are hundreds, if not thousands, of books on this subject, but none that showed us how it really was. What I believe really made "The Diary of Anne Frank" stand out was Anne's personality. Very rarely will you ever read of a character in history as optimistic as Anne, and the chances of reading about such a character capable of thoughts as little and as pure as hers.

This book, instead of depressing me and making me sad for the wrong actions and belittled humans are, inspired me; that no matter how bad things might be, in your heart just remember that there's more to life than those few bad days you're going to stay optimistic and know it's going to end. In our current time we have this virus that is starting to eliminate half of our population. In a way it's kind of the same, this virus is coming into our homes and taking our loved ones away from us, bodies are piled up ready to be burned. It's that serious. For a girl in that age I do not know how she was so

full of life and hope but I hope people who are struggling right here right now can be mentally capable as Anne.

Adding on I feel like this book came at the right time for us with all this pandemic going on. To see what others did in difficult situations so we can learn and not be scared because history will always repeat itself no matter what the name is whether it's the Nazi or Corona or something else. But that's not going to keep us from moving on. Just think of it this way, what we're going through right now is going to make history, Anne made history here by writing down what she went through, for the next generation to read it in her own words rather than reading it from the media.

Section 3: Unit Reflection:

Wow I can't believe how time flies by so fast it seems like just yesterday I finished my unit one reflection, but nope now it's unit 2 of English 1121 that's ending. I know things didn't go according to plans this semester/unit, however I really enjoyed this genre section. At first when professor Schmerler said we were going to write in genre I thought like action, thriller, comedy movie wise or at least something similar to that. I was confused when we started daily blogs on Openlab, but later on I understood the purpose of this whole assignment. The genre within.

I didn't think I was going to like this end of the unit reflection assignment, because in a funny way it reminds me of a lab report we do after an experiment. We recall everything we did in the unit and write what we liked, disliked, learned and want to learn. I had an easier time doing this reflection then within the safe place of knowing the right answer and having to find evidence as opposed to an actual lab report.

Anyhow, after the school decided to close my mind went from panic mode to self-destruct within a minute. For a second there I was relieved that it was closing but I didn't know anything about online classes, I did have a hybrid class last semester but that was different. We had one class online and the other regular face to face so we still met once a week. But alhamdulillah I already had some idea of an online class. I was really enjoying the first assignment we were giving. I was going all out making it interesting for my fellow classmates. I didn't want to make it boring, not that my life was boring, but the words and parts of my life that happened were what I thought interesting some might disagree with me but it's what happened.

I really enjoyed reading what other students did too, I wanted to know what other people thought and did during quarantine just to get a kind of idea on what they were doing different then I am. Another funny relatable thing was how much this assignment reminded me of snapchat. Instead of taking a picture and sending or posting your daily current pictures, we write it down and people read it basically as a blog is what it is. I don't know I am just that funny that they were similar. Also one thing this assignment taught me was online writing. When writing on a paper it's more personal for me and online it's also personal but with more excitement to it. Like there's an audience and instant feedback, that can backfire sometimes but I liked it.

This really helped my writing process a lot. It also helped me figure out thing that I thought I had problems with but they were in my head, for example when writing with a paper and a pencil I make a lot of spelling errors and at the time I have so many words that I'm trying to write I don't want to stop to correct it the later on I forget where the mistake was but when typing I just keep typing and the words are already highlighted for

me. But the one thing I really understood was, when I'm trying to write a paper I would struggle with openings or how to end things like that, but with the blog assignment that it got easier for me I guess. Because I realized when doing my other assignments that I don't struggle with that no more which made me so happy because it can get frustrating.

The second assignment was Anne Frank's diary, this assignment was so relatable and I'm not going to talk about it again because it's going to get repetitive. But like I said before it was very interesting to read about it was very real coming from a person who went through it all. Honestly, I don't want this semester to end, just to stay in this class a little bit longer. I'm having so much fun with it ending it will break my heart. There's too much fun and so little time. By the way I'm not saying this so I can get an A in class. I genuinely love this class so it has nothing to do with the grade but if I were to grade myself I would get an A.

UNIT III:

Learning from Each Other: Affinity, and Inquiry

Section I:

YOUR SKILL/INTEREST

Raghda shahbain , English 1121 Section #402

Professor Schmerler Date: 05/12/20

MY SKILLS/ACTIVITIES ARE...

1. Makeup
2. Basketbsall
3. Art
4. Decorating.

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.

I pretty much did the same thing before and during this confinement except going out and playing basketball in the park. I still do the other three, I still draw and do makeup but I do love the decorating. I've noticed that I decorate a lot when I'm home. So far I redid my room three times and did my sisters mini birthday table, decorated for Ramadan in three different apartments. It's like I have nothing better to do than decorate, but I do. I have so many things to do. It's crazy how I'm still standing. I just squeeze my hobbies in so I don't get bored doing the other things in my life.

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!

Something I didn't know before this confiendment is that it is not that hard to plan for an occasion, all you need is a credit card, computer or any device with internet lol. The most important thing needed is your vision/idea. I always thought I needed a month in advance to get everything ready, but not anymore because it was in my head. Having all the time in the world is just a waste of time honestly. It only delays your work, but then again since I've been stuck at home, I lost many of my outside activities. I also learned to improvise, when decorating you always say "Oh I need to get this or I forgot to buy this..." so I learned to

improvise. I searched for DIY videos of the things that I couldn't go out to get to order online. Which was great because it kept me from sitting down and doing nothing.

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

My go to sources for decorating are either weheartit or tumbler but mostly youtube. That's just when I don't know what to do but, decorating just comes to me as I go. I would think of a theme and express it with details I find around me. I feel happy doing it. It's like art to me, everytime I hear the word gathering or party I get excited. I always loved staying after school to help with decorating the upcoming event. After I got known for my decorating skills at my school the dean decided to make a decorating committee and that's how it started for me. The most fun and more exciting part of all of this is, the shopping. Shopping for the theme is the best part. You can never buy something by accident. I like to think of it as a way you're conscious telling you you'll need it.

341346233 weheartit link. <https://partyparadiseballoons.tumblr.com> , and finally youtube [results](#)



Dates are a big deal in ramadan. The first thing we eat when we break our fast is the date then a cup of water. It's part of our (Sunnah)



My family really wanted to spend Ramadan back in my country this year but with all that's going on, My dad cancelled so I decided to get creative and bring it here. The backdrop is a traditional sitarah I brought back with me the last time I went which was 2018. I just thought it was the perfect time for it to be displayed. I ordered a couple of things to make it more of a Ramadan theme and it worked out perfectly.



I kept going back and forth moving stuff adding stuff because I always say you can never go wrong with decor, everyone has an eye for it some might like it some may not.

Section II

Paires assignment

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

- We're both the older siblings in a way. He's the oldest of 4, 3 sisters and 1 brother. I on the other hand am not the oldest child but, I am the oldest sister. Technically I do have two older brothers, but my parents treat me like the oldest child. I basically do everything in the house after my mom ofcourse. Anyways Antonio, it's the same too, he takes care of his siblings. "*I went through the same thing as my siblings were growing up. I had to look out for them, or sometimes help around the house with anything my parents would ask for.*" Only those who themselves are the oldest children would get it, we're like their second parents.
- Another common thing we both have is baking. Antonio just started baking while I've been doing it since I was 14. He finds it fun and I don't, not

anymore. It was at first, but I got bored of it, I still do it from time to time though. Antonio sounds and looks like baking is his passion, the results, how they end up looking, the excitement. That moment is everything. Well that's how I felt when I first started to bake. His pictures say it all. I asked him how baking made him feel and he said, *"Baking makes me feel unstressed, happy, and definitely makes me express my creativity."* There you go, someone who loves and has passion for their skill.

- Definitely a common thing I found to have with Raghda, was even if she isn't the oldest sibling from her family, she has been the one that has been like a second parent to her siblings. I feel the same way but I believe I didn't have a choice since I was the first one to be born, so I couldn't say no.
- As Raghda mentioned she has used to like to bake as well, she had been baking since she was 14, but eventually she stopped baking and might bake from time to time. Either way I feel like she has a great passion to decorate and she does an amazing job. I think decoration is just her way of expressing a passion she has at the moment. Especially her photos were proof of her hard work and showed what she is capable of.

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

- Something I learned from Antonio was, it's never too late to start something new in your life, you just gotta make time to try something new from time to time, because you never know you might be really good at it. He started baking because he was stuck at home with nothing to do. In the end he ended up liking it and actually having the skill for it.
- I would have never guessed from Raghda that she would love to decorate, is a great passion of her's and she does an AMAZING job. After talking with her and seeing her pictures you can tell how much effort and time she will put into decorating. Like she says decorating for her feels like she is in sync with the same song.

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

- Talking to Antonio made me feel like I'm actually doing something people like because I'm always trying new things, I don't know how it feels for others. Getting Antonio's feedback, him telling me that my hard work is paying off makes me feel happy.

- Raghda gave me her honest feedback, and even though she hasn't tried a pastry or bread of mine I know she was happy at the great job I did in making them. Gave me a confidence boost that not only my family and close friends think what I do is great, but also Raghda thinks baking became a great hobby of mine.

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

- What I gained from this exercise is talking to a known/random person about what it is you're into. It's a great thing for your mental health because you never know what people might be thinking about themselves or what others think about them. Talking to Antonio gave me a clear perspective of that.
- A new perspective that I gained was that sometimes when you talk with people/friends that you don't usually speak to in your everyday life, they can offer criticism that is valuable and honest which gives a person a greater sense of confidence. At times you even find yourself to be more alike than you would have thought.

Section III(A):

REFLECTION ON YOUR PAIR

My partner was Antonio Garcia. I found it really easy to communicate with Antonio, only because we were partners before. In the beginning of the semester during professor's Schmerler's birthday party we were made partners to get to know each other. The first time I saw Antonio he was sitting down at the table next to me, I didn't know how to start. We actually had a mutual friend, Wala Nagi. She knew him from last semester, they were in the same math class. When we were assigned as partners she introduced us to each other because I was too shy. I didn't know what to say. Then we got to talking, and he was nice. We exchanged movies and I told him to watch the movie "Motherless Brooklyn." we ended up having many things in common. I don't need to mention them here, there already in (section II). We talked about his family and how quarantine was going for him, also about our skills. It was very entertaining. For example, I did not know his father was a chef/baker. I felt comfortable sharing things with him. He gave out a good vibe. I learned that boys aren't what they seem like from the outside. They're not all jocks and cold lol i don't talk to a lot of boys but the ones I do talk to, they all like games and sports. Antonio changed that mindset for me.

Section III(B):

OVERALL REFLECTION

Im crying :(

I can't believe how fast time flew this semester, especially prof. Schmerler class English 1121. I really enjoyed having her as my English professor. I loved her energy. She was full of artfulness and always gave us these interesting assignments that everyone loved. My friends and I would drag ourselves to attend our other classes but hers, we would always be happy to go and see what new activity or assignment she's giving us. I didn't know I was gonna love english this much. I loved all the assignments she gave us but the skill one was my favorite. We were able to connect with each other without having to see each other in person. I read some very interesting skills that other students had. Some I related to too, like makeup, basketball, baking and many more. I got to know who people are from the inside, not how they give out to everyone. It's very interesting how people open up just by communicating with each other.

There is one thing I really wanted to fix before the semester ended, Punctuation. This is the one thing that I failed to fix about my writing. But now that I know that it's a huge turnoff in my work I'm definitely going to focus more on it. In these last few days I did try harder on finding where my punctuation is most weak, like the commas and run on sentences however, I think I got the hang of it. I think I just needed to focus more on it because before I never did.

Knowing everything that you already know about me, I think my overall grade should be an A but, if you think I don't deserve this grade because of other weak spots I have then, I'm fine I'll just work harder in it. But in the meantime lol I'd really appreciate the A.

I got and A- for this unit but respectfully I feel like I deserve an A because I have always prioritised this class and I've always given it my best effort.