

Ariel Ruiz

English 1121, Section #402

Professor Schmerler

5/18/2020

### *My Journey:*

Writing was always a strategy that was used in order to communicate ideas and thoughts. Many authors build a connecting with their audience with pages of words. Writing can be seen anywhere and we are always writing whether it's a text message or notes. That is why it is so important for us to improve in our writing and language because it's our only way of communication to the outside world.

This class, English 1121, made me connect to writing on a more personal level. My professor showed us how to put ourselves, our voice in our writing. Of course elements like grammar and/or rhetorical elements were important as well. Yet it was very difficult to put “me” in my writing assignments, meaning when others read my work they did not feel that it came from me. It was more of a mechanical way of writing, where I was only writing to get it over with.

My mindset changed when our professor introduced a unique writing strategy. The class had to write an “inner” and “outer” dialogue, where “inner” meant thoughts and emotions, and “outer” meant what was going on around us. In this writing, we included all kinds of details, even onomatopoeias for sounds that we experienced. At first I felt uncomfortable because I thought “why would others care about my day or

what I heard outside”. In reality, I was scared of my thoughts being judged because I tend to overthink about everything, so my mind was like a box filled with long lines of thoughts ready to come out. I guess it would have made it easier for me to write, since I had so much to say. When I tried, my thoughts were not organized at all, but they were scattered all over the place. In my literacy narrative draft, that was the problem that I faced. I had to learn how to control my thoughts and organize them. Yes, my voice was out there, but I had to carefully place them into paragraphs so that it would be clear for others to read.

Even though I got comfortable with expressing my ideas, they seemed very vague. The emotional involvement wasn't there, and that hindered building a connection with my reader. I had to fix that by making my writing more personal, and long thinking as to how to express my emotions through my words. I wanted for my readers to clearly understand and feel me through what I wrote. In addition, I had to break the barrier where I was hesitant into letting the reader into my mind and emotions. However, when writing diaries during quarantine, I became much more expressive because I started treating that diary like a person. I began using figurative language in order to express exactly what I felt and did not hold back from pouring out my thoughts and feelings. Personally, I saw my mind, to grow more in importance and significance to me. This made me feel more confident about what I had to say, and many times I would reflect on what I had written to see what impression it gave off. This whole experience made writing more personal for me. Now it feels like a safe space where I can write anything I

desire. I don't need to worry about making mistakes, because not every piece of writing is perfect either, but it's the revising that makes a writing piece great.

I truly see myself improving more in writing. Not only improving the language I use in writing, but also the way of expressing myself to my audience. My goal is to keep improving on how to better express myself to my readers, to the point where they can fully experience what is going on in my mind. I wish for my writing to be a space of comfort, and for it to radiate a tone of comfort. That way my readers won't be scared to share their ideas either when they write, and it makes it easier to build an emotional connection.

## *Unit #1*

Ariel Ruiz

English 1121

3/9/2020

### Unit 1 Reflection and Grade

In unit 1 we had to write a literacy narrative. We explained our relationship with English and our growth as writers during the years. This is a new way of learning where it is more about

reflecting on your writing. As I learned, through writing, we gain and discover experiences. I had done this in English 1101, so it was familiar to me. Having this past experience, helped me better structure my current literacy narrative.

Although it was a familiar task, I still had difficulty with creating the draft. I had to look back into my childhood, and reflect on what really hindered and helped me in my writing journey. I had many things that affected my relationship with writing. Examples were my family, culture, and teachers. It was difficult for me to choose which experiences impacted my writing. I wasn't sure whether to mention more about my family or more about my education at school. I also reflected in which ways I had improved and, in the areas, where improvement was needed. I was self-examining myself throughout making this draft. This made me feel confident as a student because I realized the great improvement I had made. I did not know English, and it was an obstacle during my first years of elementary school. I am able to express myself more fluently and clearly through writing. I've also been able to make the writing my own, where the reader is able to imagine my voice as they read my words.

As a beginner in this new strategy of writing, it was very comforting to read excerpts. For example, I liked "Shitty First Drafts" and "Perfectionism" by Lamott. They both made me understand that drafts are not made to be perfect. Instead it's a place where you can freely express your ideas. This is what leads to a great final draft. Perfectionism isn't going to make your writing flawless. On the contrary, it'll be our enemy in writing. It's because the idea of perfectionism limits us from truly expressing the amazing ideas we have. Personally, I was so focused on making my draft perfect, that I put the meaning of what I was writing aside. It made my writing dry and without character. My writing didn't have my voice. These readings made it

easy for me to begin my first draft for the literacy narrative, and to truly express my thoughts in writing, regardless of whether it was perfect or not.

In addition to reading these excerpts, the class also shared their experiences. When the class shared several personal literacy narratives, it was nice to hear familiar experiences and their struggles. I thought that I was the only child who knew nothing about the English language. There were many of my classmates that had a similar experience, and I was able to relate to them. I was able to learn more about what others did in order to improve their writing, which gave me ideas of how I can improve. When receiving my draft, with critique, it was clear where I could improve more. I saw that I needed help with my pronouns and structure of some paragraphs. I was writing my ideas down in my first draft, so no structure was expected from me. With the revision I will be able to clearly and correctly form my sentences better. I also had so many ideas that I needed to start new paragraphs. Other than that, I would like to be more specific in some experiences that I had in my childhood. This way the reader can clearly feel how I felt during my experiences.

The grade that I would give myself for unit 1 would be an A-. I did all the assignments that were given to the best of my ability. However, I truly had trouble sharing in class. I had been in a smaller class in English 1101, so it was much easier for me to take lead in a class conversation. When I saw the number of students in this class, I got intimidated. Little by little I opened up to sharing what I thought, so I believe that I have improved in that area. I am proud to see that I feel more comfortable now participating in circles and commenting on excerpts and my classmates' writings. That is why I know I did not get a perfect A because I feel like there's

space for me to be an even better participant in the class. I also believe that I still need help with comfortable new writing strategies.

## *Unit #2 Mid-Semester Genre:*

Ariel Ruiz, 1121, Section 402

Professor Schmerler

4/8/2020

English

### **Diary Week #1**

March 23, 2020

7:30am

I'm so excited for class that I can squeal. I know this sounds weird but it's the only time I can actually go back to my normal routine. I was able to wake up, make coffee, and make a little breakfast. I realized I have too many papers on my desk. So many I can not even place my coffee mug nor plate on my desk. I am interested in how all my classes will go today.

1:15pm

I am sitting in front of my computer, waiting for my macroeconomics teacher. I haven't been standing, or running, or dancing. I say this because these are things that would make me tired. I

have done none of that, yet I am so tired. I feel like I have been sucked in by my computer while having classes from 8:30am to 2:30pm. After this class, I don't even want to look at my phone.

March 24, 2020

8:06am

I woke up and realized how my curtains make my room look sea blue. I feel so calm, and can imagine myself swaying side to side. What a great way to wake up in the morning! After 14 years of education, I have woken up calmly for class. Most days I have to manage how to get dressed, make breakfast, get my books ready, and wake up my family in 15 minutes. It can be very frustrating being rushed every morning.

10:13am

I have been studying and my brain feels tired and anxious. About 300 index cards, containing anatomy, are laying all around my living room floor. The writing on them looks so sloppy, reflecting my anxiety. I just want to get this over with.

March 25, 2020

8:48am

My back hurts a lot. Sitting in front of the computer and writing weirdly, as really tortured my back. Maybe if I sit straight enough, it will go away. I tried to get up at 6:00am to study more for

my anatomy exam on Thursday, but I knew that wasn't going to happen. At 8:00am I was still snuggled in my soft blankets on my bed. I hope to get time to make a review sheet today.

## Diary Week #2

Monday March 30, 2020

9:30

I finally got out of bed. Finally after suffering from a. Horrible migraine. Hate how this is something so painful. I missed my time for breakfast. I walk to the kitchen and the stone of coffee hits me. Smells so good.

12:13pm

Im folding laundry after cleaning the whole house. I didn't really clean the whole house, I'm just expressing how much I have cleaned compared to how much I clean normally. Honestly cleaning has made me into a cleaning freak. Everything must be spotless or it's not clean to me. I have gotten to the point where I gently slide my finger across a table to see if there is dust. I also disinfect everything that there is to disinfect. I take cleaning seriously now, especially in this situation of the virus.

4:45pm

I just spilled purple pink nail polish on the floor. I'm too lazy to speak it up. Maybe I should clean the nail polish off the floor, or I'll step on it later. That doesn't sound pleasant.

Wednesday April 1, 2020

10:06am



I'm finally going outside. I'm actually excited but I am prepared. I have a hat, gloves and a mask. Some people are staring at me probably because of my bear mask. My mask is so cute!

9:30pm

I was watching TV and noticed how it has an ugly coming out of it. This wire connects behind a table. It looks so tacky, I'm surprised I never noticed it before.

Thursday April 2, 2020

2:12pm

I forgot about my daily diary. I just have nothing happening at the moment. I studied anatomy and physiology. I don't like this at all, it's too many words. Too many words that don't even sound good. I wonder who even came up with such words. Did they have a lot of time in their hands, in order to make such long and difficult words?

5:43pm

Walking to the park which is 10 blocks away from my house. I love being outside. Today I had my second migraine attack, and the air calms the pain down. It's like blowing through my brain, calming the inflammation with cool. I have been wanting this, since migraines feel so awful. It is like someone is hitting you with a sledgehammer constantly. I honestly rather get knocked out, then to have a migraine attack.



6:03pm

I'm back home, and I feel sad again. I've noticed that I have such a sweet tooth. I'm trying to eat something sweet or sour. Maybe it's just the anxiety of staying home, that's not good at all.

7:52pm

I've decided to start working out or I'll get fat. All I do is sit down and eat, since we always have food in our fridge. It would be weird to not see food in my fridge. My fridge looks like a jungle of greens, colorful fruits and snacks.

8:32pm

I'm so sweaty, I feel so out of breath. This just means I need to control my breathing. I feel old, probably because I am not used to working out. I am young and I should be working out to be healthy.

Friday April 3, 2020

I've decided to play with my hair.



I look very asian, but people always confuse me with asian. I guess I see it. I am a mix of Mayan and Spaniard blood. It is quite funny but also irritating when people ask if i'm adopted. It used to bother me, but now it is simply something I am used to, I mean I've been asked that for 18 years.

1:12pm

I'm actually going to cook today. I just defeated a chicken and dismembered it. I feel proud, I am a professional butcher. I wonder if chickens know that they're going to die. I would hate to know that. When I was a kid I used to cry when I accompanied my mother to go get a chicken. The place had living chickens that they would then kill for people to eat. You could smell the place from a mile away due to the strong odor of chicken feces.



## Section 2: Reflection and Analysis of Diary Reading

The diary excerpt that I read this semester was "The Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank. Anne was a Jewish girl that was a victim of the Holocaust. In her diary we notice that she wrote before and during the Holocaust. Anne wrote mostly to herself, you can see that it portrayed her thoughts, whether they were thoughts on events that took place and/or about people. Her diaries were very personal, simple and direct. It was easy to understand and easy to feel her emotion. Anne reminded me about the rhetorical element pathos because she was always expressing emotions. Even though Anne did not directly say how she felt, her words conveyed how she felt in each moment.

Anne Frank's diary gave a positive tone and confidence. When reading, I noticed how expressive she was through her imagination. It was due to her love for writing, when she first got her Diary on her birthday, she exclaimed it was one of the best birthday presents she could get. It was obvious that she felt writing was important, especially her writing. To me, it was as if she thought her writing as valid and her thoughts as valid. I believe that she truly discovered through the experience of writing.

After reading Anne Frank's diary, it made me reflect on my daily diaries. I questioned whether I was really pouring my thoughts into what I was writing. I felt as if I was very dry in my daily diaries, and that there was not enough effort in them. Part of the reason my writing was dull was because I did not feel as if it was valid. I was not sure why I had to write about my daily life, especially since I was not allowed to go outside. Yet when I saw Anne Frank write about anything and in a positive tone, I decided to be more enthusiastic. I was being more detailed about my day and more thoughtful of my surroundings. I began to realize that my writing was valid, especially my point of view, even if it was my view on my day. The diaries stimulated me to reflect on every event that happened in my daily life.

### **Section 3: Reflection on Unit 2 and Grade**

During this unit, it was very difficult to understand what was expected of me. We did not have that same guidance that we could have physically being in class. It was not easy to see where I personally had to work on considering my writing. I believe it was because of the situation we are in, where we are forced to do distance learning. Distance learning is not something I find helpful. I don't find it to be effective to me, so it is like "fake" learning. This is why it was hard for me to truly show my skills during this unit, because it didn't feel like I was

writing for a class. What helped was writing posts and comments, as well as reading what others had posted. It made me feel comfortable with doing an online class.

Unit 2 was very dull for me. I felt like I wasn't doing anything major or anything important. However, I did learn a great deal about diaries. After reading Anne Frank's diary, it showed me the importance of her words. Considering the time she was living in and in the circumstances she was forced into, her point of view is a treasure. It taught me about her struggles and how it felt to be in her situation in addition to how she dealt with it. In the end our words always have a value.

When asked to write a daily diary, I thought it was without good reason. I thought why would someone want to read how my day went. I was stuck at home for days, so what was so intriguing about my day. It was hard for me to use enthusiasm in my daily diary because I didn't know when to and what to write about. This affected whenever I revised my writing, making me revise it carelessly and making me think it was boring. Yet I remembered about when we had the zoom meeting for planet Uranus. We spoke about picking an object and focusing on that object, and being detailed with it. After that, I looked at everything with more detail and more interest because describing the object made me think and activate my thoughts. I was more interested in writing my daily diaries because now I was paying attention to every activity I did and it forced me to use my imagination. When I revised my diaries, I noticed that I had placed more emotion in them, and even included pictures to add style.

I would like to write about something more stimulating. For example a research question, or something that involves research. Maybe something that involves using our imagination, like creating a story or alternate ending to a book. I remember doing this in high school and it was

very entertaining to read what my classmates wrote. It motivated us to use our creativity and imagination. Some students wrote comedies, while others wrote thrillers and mysteries.

I would give myself an A in this unit. Given the circumstances, we all did pretty well to stay in touch and to follow directions given. I know that I was not the only student confused, but we all were. Trying to adapt to a new way of learning was not easy for me, especially to a way of learning that I dislike. I tried hard to not feel unmotivated, but to convince myself that this class is still my responsibility. Since I knew this class was my responsibility, I made an effort to keep myself updated with the posts on Openlab. I was able to complete the tasks asked of me, and got familiar with Openlab, a website that I was not used to. I believe that I worked hard to make the best of this unit despite being uncertain about how this was going to go. I take the class seriously, and so tried to the best of my ability to complete all tasks. Writing comments and posts, made me comfortable with using Openlab.

Even though it was really difficult for me to follow what was being asked, especially because I'm not used to checking my mail daily, I tried my best to be on track. In addition, there were other classes that I was uncertain about. Many teachers were not contacting the students, and did worry that I was missing something. Openab did make it easy in that situation, and so I took advantage that we were able to communicate through it. Therefore I believe I should receive an A in this unit, taking into consideration the effort of completing all directions in an uncertain circumstance.

### *Unit #3*

Ariel Ruiz

English 1121, Section #402

Professor Schmerler

5/12/2020

## *Section #1*

*Ariel Ruiz*

### *MY SKILLS/ACTIVITIES ARE:*

The skills I have:

- 1)Singing
- 2)Drawing
- 3)Playing the piano

### *The skill I chose was Singing:*

Before the confinement I used to do all these things whenever I had time. I would find myself doing these things whenever I was stressed about a situation. I found comfort and was at ease whenever I would sing. It was the melody and emotion of the song that distracted me from the outside world. In these moments, I would forget about papers due or exams I had to study for.

Now that we are in confinement I find myself singing for no reason. Especially when I study and start getting tired, I sing to keep me up. When I get sad and/or bored I sing in the basement of my house, to hear the echo it produces. When doing this skill I feel myself expressing my emotions whether they are negative or positive. All lyrics and tone have a meaning and are trying to portray a message. The amount of sound you use or the tone, can either make the song sound boring and flat or can make it sound vivid and beautiful.



Here are some fun facts about singing that I learned from [www.takelessons.com](http://www.takelessons.com):

-singing produces endorphins and oxytocin hormones, also known as the happy hormone.

-singing relieves stress and tension and can improve your heart condition.

-singing produces strong and healthy lung capacity, it was proven to help patients with COPD, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

-the ability of singing is much like a muscle, you “use it or lose it”

When researching the action of singing, it had a very interesting definition. According to [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com), it means to “utter words or sounds in succession with musical modulations of the voice; vocalize melodically”.

Singing is a form of art that requires a lot of physical activity. Many of us have heard the saying, “practice makes perfect”, and this is definitely required in singing. Many think that someone must be a naturally good singer. In reality, everyone has to build up the skill of singing and slowly improve in it . You should not worry if you sound horrible in the beginning, just practice and anyone can improve. As for the physical activity, according to [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com) “Singing includes speaking by the manner in which the breath is expended to vibrate the vocal cords”. Meaning you need your lungs, diaphragm, tongue, and mouth. All these things need to work together and be firmly controlled in order to produce a melody or note. In the beginning it is very hard to control these parts of your body. They must work together, and without practice then it can be very difficult for them to do so.

You can improve in your singing, but a major component to good singing is emotion. You can have a great voice, but without emotion it loses its touch. A song won't succeed, if its audience can't feel an emotional impact. This is because music is an art that connects to thoughts and emotions. Many artists use emotion to motivate them to create a song. They will write about anger, sadness, including situations like a broken heart. Whether the listener relates to the lyrics or not, when sung with emotion, the lyrics can have a major impact. This is why you must sing with emotion, and why singing is a way to release all my feelings.

Music is one of the things that can emotionally impact a person, it can be compared to the use of Pathos. People use music to calm them down, to feel good, even to focus while studying. All these reasons are linked with emotions. An individual can have their emotions affected by a song, they can become sad listening to a song about heartbreak. At times the person doesn't even relate to the song, but they feel the emotions portrayed by the message, leading the person to completely change their mood. We tend to connect a song with a certain emotion, even a song without words. For example, a violin is mostly connected with the emotion of grief. While an electric guitar is more of a positive emotion. I like to think about ancient composers like Mozart and Beethoven. These composers were famous due to their original way of music. Their music was very dramatic and bold, and were used to tell stories or plays. This is another amazing point about music, music can stimulate you to imagine a story in your head, just like a song can make you remember memories or people.

People can feel uncomfortable, or even scared when asked to sing. Personally, when singing, I become very vulnerable to the people there. It is why I am very shy when I sing, because it is like I am singing my thoughts. My thoughts are being poured out there, for everyone to see and judge. That could be the most scary thing in the world. Now all your feelings and thoughts are out in display, going in harmony with your voice. The audience takes what you have poured out and your voice for observation. They can either like or dislike what you have performed, or they can either seem emotionally affected or be dry towards your music.

On the other hand, singing can be very satisfying. Hearing someone's beautiful voice can be “music” to your ears. When a singer hits a high note perfectly, chills run down your spine. When you finally let out all your emotions that have been stuck inside through a melody, you’ve taken off weight from your chest and you can breathe again. Finding a song that speaks for you, meaning that the song portrays exactly what you feel, you feel like you are not alone. The song can make you tear up of joy or sadness and after you're done, you feel good letting it out. You feel satisfied after that experience.

## ***Section #2: Pair work***

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

I know that you are a big fan of soccer, and you enjoy practicing it. I like volleyball too, and I think it's important to practice. Practicing in singing has made me better at it. I'm sure that soccer requires more practice and is very strategic as well. I see some players kick the ball and steal it from their opponent, and I immediately become intimidated.

One thing Ariel and I have in common is that our skills have much deeper meaning than just an “interest”. She likes to sing when she's stressed or overwhelmed and that's her go to place. For me, Soccer is a big part of my life. It is a place where I find

peace and tranquility. Both of our skills require a lot of practice, which I was quite surprised that singers have to practice.

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

I learned that you, Maher, live in my area. Also, we took that A train together and saw each other that one time. We would have been good train buddies if it weren't for the virus. I have also seen your good moves in soccer. They seem very hard to do, I know I wouldn't be able to master them. I'm proud of how much of a great player you are. Also, congratulations on your MVP award, you deserve it all the way because I have seen how hard you work.

I learned that singing takes lots of practice. I sometimes thought that singers have natural talent in them, Ariel mentions that "Singing includes speaking by the manner in which the breath is expended to vibrate the vocal cords". Meaning you need your lungs, diaphragm, tongue, and mouth. All these things need to work together and be firmly controlled in order to produce a melody or note. I also learned that when singing in a group creates an emotional bond between the singers. When playing, communication is just as important. To play well you have to know your teammates well enough.

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

Maher actually pushed me to sing a song called "selfish" by Madisson Beer. He actually pushed me to try high notes, which I don't do as much due to its difficulty. It was nice to try something out of my comfort zone. It also showed me what I can improve in as a singer and how much more creative I can get with my voice.

After my soccer season got cancelled because of quarantine I was really frustrated with myself and I found myself lost. Ariel privately messaged me to not lose hope, she encouraged me to work out at home (a specific app called workout home) and to keep my diet healthy.

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

Doing this exercise I realized that even though two different skills can be completely different they can have their similarities. Looking at other people's skills from different perspectives gives creativity towards how they can perfect it. For example I told Ariel to try a song called "selfish" little did I know that song had a high note in it which Ariel claims to not do them as often.

During this exercise, I got to know people through their skill and what they enjoyed doing. Many had a skill that needed certain qualities. For example Maher showed me how self-disciplined he is, and his determination in his sport. Soccer is a challenging sport, and him challenging himself to do better, shows me his focused personality.

## *Section #3*

### *Reflection on my Pair:*

My pair whom I worked with was Maher. He used to take the A train the same way I did, back when we attended college. As a person who likes staying athletic, he's a determined Player. His hobby is enjoying soccer and it's one of the things he misses most. I noticed how he takes practicing the sport, very seriously. He at times goes to play outside, but it is not the same as playing in a field, where you feel free. Maher is very passionate about his sport, and due to practice he has gained great skills. Maher is such a good player that he won an MVP award. I know that it's hard to master those moves in order to steal the ball from the opposing team and the speed to run fast. This just showed me how self-disciplined he is. When Maher sets his mind on a purpose, he is able to execute it. He is very focused on his goal and scores it. Even though he has improved so much, he still feels that he can keep improving himself as a player, which I admire.

### *Reflection on overall Unit 3:*

I thought in this Unit it was nice to see what my classmates had as a skill. It showed me a part of their personality and also what had made their personality. For example, some of my classmates had jobs that had jobs that helped them grow as a person. Another person used drawing in order to express their thoughts and emotions. I started reflecting on how singing has changed me as well. I realized that singing made

me more happy, because it was the instrument I used to express my personality.

Reading others skills, gave me an idea on what other skills I could try during quarantine. There are many things that I was not fond of trying, like cooking. However, when I read how fun others had cooking, my interest in it grew. I have definitely started cooking small things and I hope to keep improving as a beginner chef. I also felt more united with my class, seeing how we are all trying to keep ourselves. This exercise made me feel less alone in a way. We are struggling through this situation together. Staying in contact with classmates was comforting and fun to explore their likings as well as their perspectives on certain activities I've never tried. Despite my shy personality, I was very pleased exploring others' diaries and going to class through Zoom. I felt myself more open to participate.

When attending these classes on Zoom, we explored ways of being more creative in our writing. I personally thought that my writing was very vague and needed more vivid details. In class we chose objects and tried to describe them as detailed as possible without directly saying what our object was. It was fun to see how my classmates used literary devices like figurative language and personification to force me to imagine the objects in my head. Doing this was very clever as well as helpful for my writing. I learned how to be more creative in expressing myself through my writing. I was more willing to explore through my writing, meaning using different literary devices. It required focus, which I have now mastered. In addition, this unit motivated me to take interest in my classmates, on a deeper and personal level. I was motivated to take initiative to start conversations on google docs, and to deeply reflect on my classmates' skill documents.

When I saw the motivation and passion my classmates showed through their hobbies/skills, I admired them.

I believe that I deserve an A for unit 3, the adaptation to a new learning style. I have seen myself work harder and gone out of my comfort zone with this assignment. It was not easy to reach out to other classmates, but it ended up being fun for me. It was also very difficult to explain something such as singing. It was something I just did casually everyday, it was hard to focus on what it included. Yet through researching it, I was shocked and regret not paying more attention to it. The unit made the class seem more like a family in a way. We all shared our ideas, skills, and feelings. Even though it was through paper, I was able to relate to other people as well as discover new skills I was motivated to try out. Therefore, I know that I have worked hard in this unit resulting in an A, and have personally made this unit my very own.