

**Please type or print.**

What was the writing assignment? (Use your teacher's words or attach the assignment.)

Final Reflective Writing Assignment

For your Final Portfolio Reading, you'll need to include a piece of writing that discusses your writing and the choices you've made as a thinker and a writer. This piece can be in the form of a letter or an essay. In either case, there must be a clearly stated main idea supported by explanations and specific examples.

For the development and support of this piece, draw from your two research papers, lessons learned through class discussion and the writing process itself, as well as insights gained from reading the texts, "How to write with style, by Kurt Vonnegut, "Listening to Students: New Insights on Their College-writing Expectations" by Lorna Collier and "What Do Professors Say about College Writing," by Elizabeth Brockman, et al. Use direct and indirect quotations from any of these texts to illustrate the supporting points you make.

Length: 2 or more pages, but no longer than 4. Format: MLA (Remember to cite your sources.)

## The Extensive Agonizing Process of Writing

The process of developing writing carries on for millenniums, so it seems like. Each writing practice I endure develops my writing little by little. This development of my writing process will slowly expand throughout my life, unfortunately it doesn't just take place over night. I believe there are a number of people that feel like they aren't good writers because they haven't put in the time to develop their writing skills. Until people see results in their writing they don't believe they can become better writers. In most cases it can take weeks or even months to see improvement in writing, especially if we are critiquing our own skills.

Coming into English 101, with the mindset that I am a poor writer, was somewhat frightening. Writing was always the most difficult task for myself in school; therefore I am not very fond of it. Although, throughout the English 101 course I have grown to enjoy developing myself as a writer. I've begun to realize how much potential I have in my writing and as mentioned in the English Journal Article, "that writing is a craft that you improve and you're constantly improving and that it's not as if you can write or can't."(Claxton, Costa, and Kallick) Realizing this has boosted my confidence not only as a writer, but as a student in general. When I first started English 101 I had no structure or thought of styles within my writing process. Of course I had the basic processes such as, brainstorming, rough drafts, editing and revising, but I've gained style and transitioning within my writing. The writing process is much simpler when you aren't trying to sound like someone else. Throughout this course I've gained insight on how to develop my writing process. Attending and being focused in class, including supportive materials, giving myself time to write, writing regularly to acquire confidence and quality, and being receptive and responsive to feedback are all things I've learned to develop my writing.

One critical aspect to developing my writing came from receiving and responding to feedback from my peers. Most times while editing my own work I will miss little mistakes with grammar or punctuation, it is helpful to have another set of eyes scanning for mistakes. My peers also open up a new perspective on my ideas, giving me their advice on sentence structure or paragraph placement has helped the overall flow of my writing. Being my first year of college writing, I was slightly intimidated by a peer reading my writing and critiquing it. I've grown to realize that the feedback they give me is useful, to help improve my writing skills, not to judge or make fun of the way I write.

Everyone knows the saying practice makes perfect, even a basic skill like writing requires practice to achieve perfection. In my first quarter of college I gained confidence and quality in my writing by practicing. My English 99 instructor assigned my class a journal for the entire quarter. Throughout the course we were required to write thirty entries since we could write about anything it made it easier to write. As each week went by I realized how much easier it was for me to write and how much more I could write without it being a challenge. The quality of my writing became more apparent although it had only been a few months.

The biggest recognition in developing my writing is time, giving myself time to write. Ever since I can remember it has always taken me an exaggerated time to write. In order for myself to have a developing process in my writing, I need to have plenty of time to organize my ideas and search for supportive details. Taking each step in my writing process at a time and having time to do each step insures that my writing will be suffice.

Sometimes when I receive an assignment it is hard for me to make connections with the prompt I'm given. Taking advantage in finding other sources to back up my ideas helps me connect to a prompt I am given. During my high school writing experience finding citing sources

wasn't really embraced by my teachers, they were more focused on the structure of my writing. I believe that having cited material expands our ideas, which helps connect thoughts together to therefore form a more structured paper.

All the technique and skills I've acquired in the past six months such as; Attending and being focused in class, including supportive materials, giving myself time to write, writing regularly to acquire confidence and quality, and being receptive and responsive to feedback will continuously improve my writing. As well as push me to challenge myself academically throughout my college experience.

## Works Cited

Brockman, Elizabeth, Crawford, MaryAnn K., Kreth Melinda, Taylor, Marcy "What Do Professors Really Say About Writing?"

English Journal 100.3(2011): pages 75-81