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University Writing 1102-011

Mrs. C.G. Rothwell

Since elementary school I have always loathed writing. I never liked the five paragraph template and I always had a hard time forming my writing that way. Now that I have more freedom I have been able to free my writing more. In my last writing class, I was able to learn how to identify literature in my life and the different forms and forums it appears in. I have learned how shift my writing to better communicate myself.

Currently I am learning how to be more organized with my writing. I have also been forced to learn how to better tell a narrative by showing detail, rather then just telling the reader. The example below in figure one will show you that I had a good idea of that concept but I needed more practice.

Figure 1

 “What are you smiling at?” I was confused I didn’t even notice Madison had walked over.”

My first try I was still mainly telling the reader what was going on instead of showing them with more descriptions and dialog. I was still just narrating witch looking back can make any narrative turn dull. Figure two shows how my narrative turned a bit dull.

 **Figure 2**

**I continued with my people watching activity. I continued shopping and I was set with two shirts. I made my way to the check out line and there they were again. At that point I had nothing else to do but occupy my time until I was next in line. His septum is pierced.**

As you can see above in figure two I did my best to describe the situation but it turned into a dry few sentences that more was a list of random thoughts and actions. Analyzing my outlook on the assignment I thought it would have been easier then it actually was.

Besides our writing assignments we also have been keeping a free writing notebook. I have found an entry in where I explained how I was to change my narrative. Figure three will show how I analyzed, interpreted, and evaluated my writing after Mrs. Rothwell made her comments.

**Figure 3**

**“I need to rearrange my paper. The introduction I made is not needed. I need to focus more on the actual story and employ more dialogue in my narrative. I can choose to keep the explination but it will work better at the end instead of the beginning”**

In this course we have also focused on planning, questioning, reading, and responding. But we are not just questioning and responding to Mrs. Rothwell’s comments or our own internal writer; but to the actual writing we have done. I have included in figure four an excerpt of changes made after my first draft.

**Figure 4**

**I eagerly walked into the fluorescent-light thrift store. “You know the store isn’t going anywhere!” I could hear Madison in the background; she is always letting me know when I’m being over the top about things.**

This is how I opened my narrative. The mood is set quickly and excitement is built. With this entry I have also established the kind of friendship I have with Madison, I have even revealed my own personality. I have opened my story in a way that is more personal and intriguing to the reader. I have been able to better understand the intertwined relationship of the audience, topic, and writer, because of this my writing has improved for the better.

 I have decided to set three goals for this semester. My first goal will be quite easy and I should be able to carry through the rest of my academic career. I have decided to keep a personal journal to continuously keep writing. My biggest problem is that I do not write enough daily so a daily journal should help this problem. I have asked my professors before and they have all encouraged me to write more on my own. A personal journal is more casual and more fun to write, because it wont feel like homework, this should be a good way to keep me writing improve my thought process. The second goal I will set for myself will be a bit harder to achieve, however it will also have a significant effect on my writing and my writing process. Personally I do not like to read much, however I know if I want to improve my own writing and my vocabulary I will need to start reading more. For my second goal I have decided to read one book per month. This goal is not impossible and is achievable. By reading published authors I will be able to expose myself to different ways of thinking and different styles of writing. I also have always had problems with my grammar skills, reading should also help me improve the grammar in my own writing. My final goal will be the most challenging, but it will benefit my writing the most. I will be taking a writing intensive course, this will be very challenging because it will be writing intensive. This however will improve my writing because my grade will be base on how I can show my knowledge of the topic I study based on my writing. I will need to make sure my writing is well prepared and well written because it will be for a grade.

All three goals will make a significant impact in my writing not just for my academic career but it will also help me improve on my thought process.