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English 113B

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My Journey in English

I have always struggled in my writing throughout my high school years continuing on to my first semester in college. I have improved and applied my current skills to my second semester. When I was going to take this class I did not know what to expect because I never had this teacher before. When the first essay was assigned I struggled a lot to even know what topic I was going to write about. Then when it came to writing my thesis I could not get straight to my point. This essay challenged me and I felt like I could never get it right. Even though I did receive a C on my first essay I was determined to work hard to achieve a better grade.

Writing is a challenge I face on a daily basis. But the critical aspect of writing is what makes me a better writer. The critical aspect of writing makes me a better writer because I am able to analyze my own writing and notice my own mistakes. I enjoy writing because I am able to incorporate my own opinion and express what I feel about a subject. But what I do not like about writing is when I do not understand a topic I'm assigned. It is challenging for me because it requires me to do research so I can be familiar with the topic. My strengths in writing would be making connections with outside sources to the topic. What I mean is I am able to relate my outside sources efficiently to what I'm talking about so my readers can see how it connects. In addition, the challenges I face in writing is developing a thesis that answers all these questions: who, what, where, why, how, and so on. If your thesis does not answer these questions then that means it is not clear enough and it might be too vague. I struggled in developing a thesis because

I am always missing something. So my thesis ends up being too vague or it leaves readers confused. It was very frustrating for me because I would rewrite my thesis multiple times and ask myself those same questions. If my thesis did not answer those questions I would keep rewriting my thesis. The part that was very frustrating is knowing that the thesis is what attracts the readers to become interested in your topic. When writing a thesis I have to have a point worth considering.

Overall, this English class has helped me develop as a writer. I have learned about how to create a well-written thesis, organization, grammar, counter arguments, and so on. Now I feel like I can write a well-written thesis that will get the point across. Before I was not able to do that but now I feel confident enough because I have the knowledge to do so. I improved in my grammar with the lessons I learned in class. To me grammar wasn't my top priority I always left that to the end when I was done with my essay to revise everything. But I learned that it is very important because your essay can have important information but when someone reads it they see all the grammar errors. My teacher took us to a workshop and had the students do grammar presentations, which gave me knowledge on how to use commas correctly and so on. My grammar has improved a lot because now when I revise my essays I am critical about that. I also improved in the structure of my essay and my body paragraphs. My teacher also encouraged us to go to the LRC, which helped me so much in my essays, that is also another reason how I improved because in the LRC the tutors took their time to look through my essay. I will continue to work on my thesis and my body paragraphs. For students taking this class next semester, I would tell them to pay attention in class and always ask questions no matter if they are nervous or feel intimidated. I also would tell them to go to the LRC because the tutors are really helpful when it comes to writing a successful essay.