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Cover Letter

This essay really helped me learn more about other people’s experiences with language. I originally thought that the majority of the people just simply learned English from their parents and that I am a unique case. I now understand that every person is a unique case. I also never gave thought to how the experiences may affect other people. I recall that one of my classmates wrote about not being able to speak English and being teased about it. I remember when I was in elementary school, I had a friend who only spoke Chinese, and we figured out a way to play.I wonder if me and being friends affected him positively as it affected my classmate when she found people to play with. This piece, and the spoken piece as well really made me think how in the end, we all were able to make it. We all were able to speak English and go to college which is the goal we desired to get to as kids. We made it!

My audience for the written narrative is my classmates and my teacher. I usually like writing in a way where I keep the reader tuned by making it informal.I basically put the reader directly in the readers shoes through quotes and telling them how I felt. However, in this piece I was only able to do this to a certain extent since I had to keep it formal for my audience and tailor it to their needs. When we watched the ted talk about the women who “spoke three languages”, I really thought that the best way to write a narrative is informally because of her phenomenal performance.

I believe that the most thing that impacted my writing is my audience. I think this is so because, I was wondering what my essay would be like if my audience was a kindergarten class rather than a college class. My writing would be less sophisticated, much more detailed but shorter, and simply more colorful but in writing. When I say colorful, I mean that I would just make it more suspenseful and interesting, something kindergarteners enjoy. I think that the audience is the most important aspect of any writing for these reasons.

This assignment helped me develop strategies for reading, drafting, revising, and editing. In the past, I would just change a couple of words and say that the essay is perfect. Now, I actually read the paper over and over again in hopes of finding mistakes. This was my new way of writing, editing, and revising. When we did the group assignment, I realized that the first 2 questions were to give positive feedback to the writer and the last 2 were designed to give them feedback. I think this way would help the writer feel motivated to make the parts that need work better and I will use this method of editing in the future. I can easily say that I improved my digital technologies to address a range of audiences, from the teacher to the students.

Overall, I really enjoyed this phase and I felt that it was beneficial to me in many ways. I also was very interested while writing this piece as opposed to how I felt completing paper before.

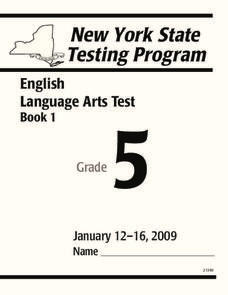
Is Reading Boring?

“Is Sameh Abdellal in this class.” “Yea, he is over there”, my teacher said pointing at me. “Get your things and follow me”, the other teacher said. All of my classmates went quiet and looked at me. I got up and went to the brown closet which was at the end of the classroom. I opened it and got my red and blue school bag. I closed the closet door and went back to my desk to get the rest of my things. I got my two yellow number two pencils and the pink eraser that was never used before. My heart was beating faster and faster as I went to the front of the classroom to the other teacher. I never saw him before, and I did not know his name. He opened the door to the classroom which had a small window near the top of the door which I was never able to see through.

My parents were born in Egypt and had great lives over there.My mother graduated from college with an art degree. She had a great job in a school as an art teacher. My father graduated from college as well with a degree in accounting. He worked at an airport and was the main accountant there. There were many stories that they heard about the American Dream and they moved to the United States. They wished to leverage their college degrees but that was no use. The American Dream went down the drain for them and they only wished that their kids would be able to thrive and live the lives they could only dream of.

As a young child, there was only one thing I really like to do: play with toy cars. I recall a specific day where I was home with my mom. I spent that whole day playing with my cars. It never bothered me that I was not able to speak English and I never asked my parents to help me learn it. My dad usually spent the whole day working and would return when we were asleep. As I grew, I was taught Arabic, the only language my parents knew. I was even put into Arabic school so that I would know the language of my parents and religion. I started school in the United States, but I only knew Arabic and my teachers tried their best to teach me English. Due to my limited English, I was placed in the English Second Language (ESL) program. As a child I did not know what this meant but I thought that it would not make much of a difference. I learned to speak, write, and read English as the years passed by. However, I only read in English when I had to. I wouldn’t even think of getting a book to read during my free time. I had always thought of that as a chore and I would only do the bare minimum in school and my grades reflected that.

I was in fifth grade and we were going to take the English State Test that day. That was when the teacher came in and asked for me. When we went outside of the classroom, he told me that because I was in ESL, I would receive more time for the state exam. I said, “I want to stay in my classroom with my friends.” “You have to go to this room but it’s not that bad. You’ll do fine”, he said. I was beyond disappointed and wanted to get out of this program that I misjudged. When I entered the room, the proctors were still getting ready and the students had nothing to do. When I sat down, I started to wonder what I could do to get out of this program. I thought that if I tried hard on this test, I would be free.



I tried to remember all of the tricks the teacher told us; How to find the theme of a passage, how to gather evidence, context clues and many others. When the proctors handed out the test, I started to read, and I applied all of the tricks I learned from my teacher. It was no longer a chore to read and write on that test paper but something I wanted to do. I wanted to get out of the program because it made me different from my classmates. That day, I read and wrote all over the test and I was happy about it. When I completed the test, I realized that the readings were quite interesting and the essay I completed was not a burden as I thought it would be.



That day made a huge difference in my life. I scored a well enough grade on the state exam and I was able to leave the program. As I progressed into middle school, I didn’t have to worry about my new friends looking at me the same way I was looked at when I went to get my bag from the closet. I did not have to worry about being separated from my friends. When I saw the four out of four, I received on the state test, I was ecstatic, and my parents were proud of me as well.

That day I realized that reading and writing was not a chore. It was something that I could do for fun. Those excerpts and articles that I read were interesting and I read them multiple times for fun. It sparked something in me and made me want to read more books. I went to the library later that week and picked out a few books to read. Ever since that day I went to the library regularly and when I got a job, I bought some of the most influential books I read. I still continue to buy and read books and I do not plan to stop anytime soon! READING IS NOT BORING!!!

