

Ms. Carota/Pd. 6

Creative Writing

13 January 2017

Dear Reader,

Creative Writing has definitely been a once in a lifetime experience for me. When I walked into the classroom the first day of school, I ~~was~~ immediately felt like I didn't belong in this class. I knew I wasn't particularly good at writing, and I didn't know anyone in the class. Then, my teacher for the course- Ms. Carota- started talking about daily writing prompts, all the projects we would be doing, and even something called Circle the Wagons, where we would gather together and share something that we had written. I'll admit- I ~~was~~^{was} terrified of the class right then and there. I already didn't like sharing anything, much less telling strangers about my personal life. But over the next several months, I actually started to get a hang of our routine. Ms. Carota challenged us to perfect our writing pieces by asking for advice from our classmates, and it completely changed my perspective of the class. At the beginning of every project that we did, Ms. Carota would explain our new assignment and show us amazing examples from her past students. Then, we were left to rough draft by ourselves and get feedback from our peers around the classroom. In the end, we ended up creating a coat of arms, an I am poem, a poem of possibilities, a monologue, a multi genre project consisting of a reflective, creative, visual, and research section, a memoir, and an imagist poem. I am still amazed now at how much we

accomplished over this semester. Creative Writing has been a strong learning experience for me personally. I learned to ask others for suggestions when I needed help. I learned that no writing is perfect, and that you can always edit it to make it better. I learned that everyone has suffered through some kind of bad experience, and that no one is alone. Taking this course is definitely something I will never forget.

The first piece I chose to revise was my monologue. This piece was about someone with deep feelings about another person, but it was only one-sided. I thought that this was my best project out of all of the ones we had worked on this semester. I was most proud of this piece because I thought I had done a pretty good job in putting in a lot of emotion. I tried to include as much imagery and feeling as I could, and it was actually really fun to write in the perspective of another character. However, I also felt that I could add more details to the piece. We had been told not to make the piece too long, so I had had to cut back on my descriptions. But now, I am able to elaborate more on how the narrator truly feels about the person, and even make the situation more dramatic in a sense.

The second piece I chose to revise was my poem of possibilities. For this assignment, we basically had to write about where we saw ourselves in five years, so I talked about my dream college life at Columbia University. I felt like this piece needed a lot of revising, both on grammar and just the general structure of the piece. My poem had been more of a list of my daily activities than an actual poem about where I would be in a couple years. Also, I had had trouble with switching between past and present tense. There were many things I could do to make my

poem better, but I had also really liked the general concept of what we had to write about, so I decided to choose it to be part of my final portfolio. Besides changing the things that my teacher wrote down, I also added more details and elaborated on how I hoped my future life would be like. I included more descriptions about my day and my feelings to create a better image in the reader's head.

The new piece that I chose to write was another monologue. I don't know, there's just this feeling that you get when you're expressing yourself through another character. Monologues are unique in that you can write about stuff and about your own experiences. I was able to incorporate my past encounters and emotions into a brand new character with his own set of problems. This new piece was pretty interesting to write and I had fun doing it.

I can't believe that this class is already coming to an end. These couple months have passed by in the blink of an eye, and now, we're already handing in our final portfolio. During this course, I learned a lot about myself as a writer. As I look back at my work, I have found that I actually like writing about my own experiences and hopes. I have always been amazed by how authors are able to use their own encounters in life to create beautiful pieces of literature. After going through my writing, I have also realized that I like to provide detailed descriptions to make the image in the reader's head as specific as possible. Additionally, I tend to organize my writing in a structured form, as seen by my poem of possibilities and my visual and research portions of my multi-genre project. Creative Writing has definitely opened my eyes to analyze all the different types of literature there are in this world, but it has also taught me that all writing can be

made better. I have learned that there are many things I can work on personally to become a better writer, but one main thing I want to improve upon is using more complex language and literary elements. I have always struggled with incorporating these things into my writing, and I hope that I will be able to utilize these devices in the future. In conclusion, taking this course has truly given me insight to the world of literature and has undeniably helped me become a better writer. Thank you for having me in your class and giving me the opportunity of a lifetime!

Sincerely,

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