Self-Reflection Essay

Louis L’Amour once said, “Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.” As a writer, it is a great quote to live by. But I think I would like to change the wording slightly, “Start, no matter what.” Not everyone dreams of writing, but everyone has a dream. There is an innate feeling of wanting to do something with our lives that has an impact. Not everyone makes the connection between the focus of their dream and how it can impact others. I decided to major in English because my dream is to become a published writer while educating college students. I feel impressing on others the urge to follow their dreams, no matter the doubt others or they have in their abilities, is something that is in dire need in society today. I have harnessed a wealth of knowledge that has helped me become a better writer and will continue to help me in my pursuit by applying the knowledge I received, the areas of strengths of communication I will be able to bring to my field, and areas of opportunity I can work on my communication.

I can apply the knowledge I received in this class in multiple ways. Over the course of my life, I have read a multitude of books and always wanted to write a book. I’ve dreamed of writing something that would transport others from their world to another plane of existence. I’ve written a few stories that I found to be good, but publishers found them to be lacking. With no feedback from publishers, I’ve been left to my own devices. However, utilizing what I learned, I can actually create locations I want characters to get to and what I want to happen in between by putting them in a web or creating an outline specifically for the characters, that way I can start pushing each character where I want them to go. This will also help when I forget where a character was in my storyline; becoming a road map for my writing.

An area of strength I would be bringing to my field of study would be the constructive criticism I offer. I love reading and helping others in their goals. I noticed when others let me read what they write, I usually offer some information that improves their writing. Feedback of any kind is not only beneficial for the author, but for the reader as well. The author learns where their writing needs improvement. There is also the chance of them seeing a detail they previously missed. The reader, being the outside source, will see the writing with fresh eyes and will be better suited for finding small details and faults in the writing. The reader could also learn a different path for their own writing. “It is through collaboration, not simply interaction, that students have the best learning experiences” (West, page 72).

An area I am going to have to work on will have to be listening to what is being told to me. I’ve received feedback before, but tend to disavow it as nothing more than people being nice, or sympathetic. I’ve been told I am a decent writer, but need to edit and rewrite. My self-consciousness tells me that if I don’t get the project done correctly the first time, there is no point in rewriting it because no one would read what I had written after that. Much like in this class, instead of editing my first draft, I was compelled to write a new essay for the final. I felt it would be a better use of my time to create a new essay instead of working on the old one. Personally, I feel if I take what constructive criticism people tell me to heart and respond accordingly, by editing and rewriting my paper, I will get better results than had I just written something new with the same problems as previously been made.

The feedback I receive from others that I will begin to listen to, the constructive criticism I will be able to give to others, and the knowledge I was able to learn in this class has revitalized my spirit to become a better writer. I’ve learned a substantial amount, not only from the instructor, but from my peers, which is the goal of the online community. I am very thankful for the feedback, the help, and the guidance throughout the course and wish all the best.

Reference

A Student’s Guide to Strengthening an Online Community. (2010). *TechTrends: Linking Research & Practice to Improve Learning*, *54*(5), 69–75. https://doi-org.lopes.idm.oclc.org/10.1007/s11528-010-0439-7