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My Literacy Journy Through School

We all start out somewhere when it comes to reading and writing, for some it comes easy and for others it causes them difficulty. I was one of those people who found English to be easy and not have to put a lot of effort into learning it. English in general is my native language so I never went through the experience of learning two languages at once, so I feel that made my schooling easier that some who also attended elementary with me. I really didn’t encounter my first memorable text till I got to elementary school. I don’t remember what book it was that got me into reading, but I was one of those kids who would read during recess rather than play on the playground.

At that time, I would read a lot of books on horses, you would think that would mean that I would write about them, right? No, I often wrote stories about dragons and magic or things like that. My school had a yearly competition where you could write a short story about anything that you wanted, and if you won the teachers would act it out. I would turn in stories that, while looking back on them now, probably weren’t the most school appropriate. While I started out with dragons and magic, towards the end of my elementary school days I started to transition into the horror genre of writing.

Middle school is when I started to use technology in my writing as well as when I started to really analyze and appreciate the texts that I was reading. I still read fantasy novels, but I started to add in gothic and slight horror to my reading list. Middle school was where I was introduced to Edgar Alen Poe and H.P. Lovecraft, although the latter of which I wouldn’t really get into till high school. As I stated before, this was when technology was introduced to me as a major tool in a classroom setting. This was a huge game changer for me as I could now use the auto correct function for miss-spelled words. I wasn’t taught how to spell in elementary, so for the longest time I had struggled to spell what others could deem as simple words. I could read just fine and could convey my points in my papers just like everyone else, but for some reason I just couldn’t spell. My sixth-grade teacher saw this and blamed me for not paying attention in school even when I clearly was. Halfway through seventh grade we got laptops, this allowed me to finally be able to spell and really helped me understand and develop my writing style. I feel that using technology was very beneficial for schools and really helped kids to access an easier tool for writing. This also allowed for students like me to access the internet for research for the essays we now had to write.

Middle school was when the essay style paper was introduced to me in full, specifically the different types of essay styles. I was fine with writing in these new styles unless it was on a topic that I found boring. I have ADHD so trying to focus on an essay that was on a topic that I couldn’t get interested in was very difficult. This mostly happened with informative and persuasive essays. My school mainly focused on those essay formats and didn’t really have us write argumentative essays. Writing in that format didn’t come until I got to high school.

High school was my least favorite when it came to writing. It introduced many more rules that we had to follow and introduced the thesis statement, something I still don’t fully understand to this day. I absolutely loathed writing any essays that the school board told us we had to write for the finals. My English teacher, however, was a very nice and understanding woman who would let us write about a book we were reading. She would have us read for 20 minutes at the end of class every day, and she would then have us write about the themes we saw in the text and how they developed as the story progressed. She would often have us write argumentative essays on hot topics like politics or other current day or past events. She also introduced us to the college expectation when it came to writing. She had us write one paper in the MLA format and had us do exercises on thesis statements, a lesson I still haven’t fully been able to comprehend. She was my main literacy sponsor as she taught me how to write for college and helped me realize how I felt about writing overall.

I hate writing formally. I feel that it restricts how I can get my point across, and the word or page requirement shouldn’t exist as it just makes you drag a point out too long or makes you start talking about something unnecessary. The requirements for formatting are unnecessary I feel as well. I much prefer the writing style of not having to put it in any specific kind of format like MLA or ALA. I just like to write my little stories in the way that they turn out, without having to worry about if my thesis statement is good or not. I know that there is a format for story telling but it just feels freer as I can just write whatever comes to mind. I absolutely adore writing when I’m not constrained by a topic I don’t like or by requirements that I must meet. I struggle to write essays, but I thrive writing stories.

Dear Professor Ahmed, I learned that peer review can be very useful. I would have people look over my papers before but never to this extent, it was very insightful, and I want to add this extra check to the rest of my papers. I can also add this to my other classes as well. I’m currently taking speech as well as English, so I can apply this to my speeches. Something I’m confident about in my writing for academic papers is my ability to just write and come out with a fairly good essay that won’t need too much correction. For non-academic papers, I’m most proud of my imagination. I still struggle with thesis statements, and it’s something I hope to improve for my next papers. I plan on doing some research on thesis statements to learn more about them and hopefully understand them better. The only confusion I had was what to title my paper, I usually wait till the last minute to give it a title as I am pretty indecisive when it comes to naming things. How I resolved this was by settling on a title I thought suited my essay the best. My favorite passage in my essay was when I was talking about my high school English teacher. She meant a lot to me, and I love talking about her and her lessons. The best part of this assignment for me was getting to take a good look at my literacy history and seeing how it affected me after all these years. Reflecting on the past is something I can’t do often, so I was nice to look at the past. I have no major questions at this time.