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Intermediate Writing 20120-021

July 31, 2012

Writing Process Reflection Essay

Back in high school I used to think of writing as an EVIL thing that should be locked up with no chance at parole. I hated it, it was the worst thing you could make me do. Academic writing? No thank you, I'll just take the frontal lobotomy, the only type of writing that I would enjoy was creative. I could travel to a different world with the rules that I had created, not any of this grammar mumbo jumbo. Which is what increased my hate for writing there was just too many rules, so many things I could mess up with, I was being crushed by harsh jurisdiction.

The teachers didn't help either, they would go over what you couldn't do in your paper and wished you a "good luck" and a "hope you don't fail" and sent you on your merry way. You feel so enclosed by the entire dos and don'ts, but what can I do in my paper? Before college this was the general consensus about writing, it had too many confusing rules that I could not follow and it was not worth the frustration. Then I had my first college class. I remember getting the assignment and the frustration started to well up in my gut. Just then the teacher did not go over one thing I can't do in my paper, instead she went over what I could do. So I can put quotations in, it can have 1 inch margins, it can have pictures, etc. I finally felt like I could write a paper. I knew what my paper should include and that was a lot easier to deal with than what my paper should not include. The walls were down and I was free to write academically.

Since then I have been able to write papers and not feel pressured by all the rules. What my college classes taught me was that you can mess up and it's ok. Since then first drafts are now effective, in high school the first draft may as well be the final, you wouldn't dare make any mistakes. And when you did make a mistake you were treated like your final would not be good enough because you couldn't even make a reasonable first draft. They would correct you on everything but the content of the paper and you had nowhere to go after that. Now that I have learned that I can make mistakes and that it is not the end of the world it has made academic and even creative writing a much easier place to travel too. I now write papers on my own with no incentive from school, I just do because I feel that I am able to. My teacher once said that when a professor judges you just on grammar than they are not a good professor, I love that it's so true.