

ESSAY WRITING

This essay was written for a Grammar for Teachers course. The challenge was to describe how grammar skills will be of use in professional life. This sample demonstrates my own, personal writing style and voice.

Skills Used

- ~ Essay writing
- ~ Grammar

Statement of Professional Practice

Perhaps due to my upbringing, I have never imagined myself as a professional in any field. In my youth, I briefly dreamed of becoming an astronomer of some kind, but this was mostly out of a desire to have an intellectual profession that allowed me to live and work in Hawaii. The rigors of physics and chemistry quickly dashed my romantic idea that I could be paid to stay up all night in a tropical paradise, gazing through a telescope. Once I realized that the physical sciences were unable to motivate me to work hard, I began to think about what else I should focus on, and English and writing came to mind. Unlike chemistry, the rules of grammar came easily to me and I even enjoyed putting them to use. I decided to write about science, rather than practice it.

For a variety of reasons, I never actually majored in English. I chose Technical Communication at EWU mainly because even though I turned my back on physics a long time ago, I still don't want to let the science go. Also, I feel that the scientific community needs writers like me, one who knows how to listen to scientists and communicate to non-scientists. That idea aside, a whole new world of professional writing possibilities has been opened up to me. I never before considered public relations, for example; but now, I am seriously considering working in that field, especially after my professor's kind encouragement. Whatever I choose – public relations writing, technical writing, or just stay-at-home novelist – I am certain that advanced grammar skills are essential to making my meaning clear and being taken seriously as a professional. I'm certain that any publisher would turn down a manuscript that needed excessive proofreading.

I feel confident that I have achieved a satisfactory level of understanding of this course's material, and not just because my overall grade is an "A." One of my other classes this quarter was Public Relations Writing. The final project involved nearly a dozen documents in various formats: speeches, letters, and press releases. If not for Grammar for Teachers, I may have made a fool of myself with my erroneous use of semicolons, as I did last quarter in Proposal Writing. Also, the tips on pedagogy may very well be useful to me in the future. Even though I know that I don't have what it takes to be a teacher, passing knowledge and skill along to others is very rewarding, nevertheless.