Memoir

*Rusher, dragger, or on my time?*

My experience writing a memoir was very challenging and hard to conceptualize. It seemed like an easy task to write six words about myself and my development but in reality, it was one of the hardest assignments that I’ve had to do this week out of all the challenging engineering work I do. It took me about 30 minutes to come up with these six words and what inspired me to choose this was the movie Whiplash. I recently watched Whiplash about three weeks ago and it easily became one of my top five movies of all time. One of the most intense scenes in this movie was when the main character was tasked with playing a challenging sequence on the drums and was harassed by the conductor about his timing in front of all other members of the orchestra. Instead of becoming discouraged after this trial, the main character works extremely hard to become one of the greatest of all time and to prove his conductor wrong about his ability to perform.

After analyzing this scene and movie, I reflected on how much it resonated with me and my life challenges. I think that I loved the movie so much because of the line by the conductor “Are you a rusher, or a dragger, or are you on my time?”. This line reminded me of my relationships with the people that I looked up to most in my development. Specifically, it reminded me of two individuals, an engineering professor, and my soccer coach. These three individuals played a major role in my development in the areas of my life that I cared for most at the time of their influence on me.

My engineering professor was intense and unhinged. He often gave out insults and never gave out good grades. Every time I asked a question during a filled lecture, it felt like he would harass me in front of everyone and make me feel dumb for asking questions like I did. Although this hurt me, I deeply respected his intelligence and work ethic, so I worked hard to gain his approval and an A in the course.

My soccer coach was a role model that I looked up to deeply and had a great relationship with. Although, when I had first met him, he was extremely unhinged about his criticism of my performances and made me feel incredibly bad in front of my whole team. This made me work hard to gain his respect and I eventually became one of the best players that he had ever coached.

Tying these role model experiences back to my memoir “Rusher, dragger, or on my time?”, my role models had asked me or stated harsh criticism of my ability to perform in things I cared about but this only propelled my work ethic and success. This analysis made me aware of the motivation that most drives me to success which is proving my role models wrong about my performance and making them proud of my development.