What Writing Means to Me

Writing to me used to be a way to show my imagination or tell stories, but as I have gone through high school and college writing has become a formula that I use to convey information about topics. Now this might be because the papers I am writing now almost always are trying to prove a claim I make at the beginning of the paper, but nearly everything for me has become this formula. And now as I have to move away from this type, at least for this assignment, I am finding some difficulty in writing, as without a structure I have solved it is hard to find the most effective way to convey meaning or get work done. That structure is usually found in my body paragraphs as I start with a claim that leads to pieces of evidence followed by an explanation and leading into the next paragraph. And it is because of this that writing has somewhat become a bore to me. I used to just write for fun such as writing about trips. I would see how many pages I could write for the teacher to read. Now when I write I just try to get the point across in as few words as possible until what’s there checks all the boxes of what the professor grading it is going to look for. Even though this idea of a formula for my writing works and my grades have been good because of it, I sometimes wish I would want to sit there and just write anything that comes to mind even if it takes a few more sentences to get my point across. Since it's been so long since I have done nonfiction writing most of my inspiration first comes from what the professor puts as a prompt and second whatever I can find the most information on without having to dig for it. Another way that I just try to get writing done and over with. However there is hope for what writing means to me, it’s just not in the form of essays.

Since I have started programming for classes I have found that writing aids that process greatly and is a great way for me to get my ideas out before they leave my train of thought and so now most of my writing is used to help guide me along a path or create the formula to solving a problem. When I write things down it allows me to think and go back to what I have just written down many times. This allows for trial and error until I think of the next step in solving the problem. Without writing and just visualization my thoughts go all over the place and are hard to structure and once I get to the program I forget everything and don’t even know where to start. If I were to say one thing that writing is good for, it's definitely for solving problems no matter how easy or difficult they are.

Writing is also used for taking notes and for this I mean writing by hand. My philosophy professor wouldn’t even let us use laptops unless we had a good reason and I think he was right about thinking we shouldn’t use them. This is because in the past when I have taken notes on my computer it has still been very difficult to recall the information later on but I found that after this class I can still remember most of the information even though it doesn’t mean all that much to me. Now it could just be that I put more effort into that class because it was a college course and not a high school class but I do think writing helped me remember.

To conclude, writing used to be where I would write everything I could think of to see how many pages I could write, but as I have grown older my writing has become more direct and to the point. And it's not that I don’t like writing, it's more that I’m trying to get things done quickly and effectively. However, I do find that writing is a great way for me to work through problems and retain information. I hope to get back to writing with imagination or at the very least being able to write and see how many pages I can get.