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December 4, 2020

Professor J M Clarke

Department of English and Literature

Utah Valley University

Dear Professor J M Clarke,

I have honestly enjoyed English 1010 more than I ever thought I would. I can sincerely say that even if I don’t walk away with the grade I want, the knowledge and skills I’ve gained over this past semester will have been worth it. I pondered a while on what grade I thought I deserve. I was struggling to decide on a B+ or an A- but after careful consideration I think an A is still in the realm of possibility. There was one major assignment that is keeping me from saying I put in all my effort in my essays and that was my critical analysis paper, *Katanagatari.* I procrastinated on this assignment and because of my laziness I had to rush a lot of the smaller sections like the introduction, background, opposition, and conclusion. It is a paper I am about half proud of, and once I revise it, I will be able to be proud of all of it. I plan on revising that paper into what I believe will be an A grade paper and then I can honestly say I tried my best on my work. I’ve attended almost all the livestream classes and watched recordings of ones that I would miss. I wasn’t the most active in class, but I tried to comment as I felt necessary.

I have learned a lot more than I expected in this class and one of the more surprising things was about active reading. When we did the pretty as a princess essay, I wasn’t expecting to care much for the annotating that came with the assignment, but I was proven wrong. It was surprising to me how much easier the paper became to write after I read the and annotated the document. This is a small skill that I will be using long after I finish my English courses and I’m glad you taught us to use it. The next most important thing that I learned from this class was how to write a concise paper and detailed paper. I have always enjoyed writing and until this class I didn’t realize a lot of mistakes I was making. I used to write a lot but say very little and I just thought that was how you wrote essays. I was once again proven wrong and I enjoy writing even more because of it. Trying to say as much as you can with as little words as possible creates a much more vivid and enjoyable story and I feel like a much better writer because of it. There are some other lessons that I have learned a lot from like how to structure different kinds of essays, and how to properly cite sources, but I won’t go into great detail about them. Needless to say I have learned a lot from your class, and I am very grateful for it.

Honestly, I feel like your class was very well taught, my only real complaint is the assignment due dates. I am not complaining with the amount of time you gave us it just would have been more convenient to know for sure when everything was due. But in the end, it really wasn’t that big of an issue, you let us know verbally when we should do them and that was more than enough. But if you do want to make your class feel a bit better that would help.

I chose to revise my critical analysis of *Katanagatari.* I mainly fixed the organization issues that the paper had and added more information to the background section about the author. I added a little bit to the introduction, opposition, and conclusion but for the most part I was pretty happy with them. I made my topic sentences more noticeable and turned the evidence section into just three main paragraphs.

I want to thank you one last time for teaching this class, I have learned a lot and am very grateful for the hard work you put into it. A lot of the classes were very repetitious, but I am lucky they were. Once or twice I managed to miss some things the first or second time you said them and am glad you were very persistent on making sure we had the information that we needed. I learned a lot this semester and no matter what my end grade might end up as I won’t regret taking your class.

Sincerely,

Cody L. Strange