

Dear Professor Knudson,

My writing has been up until this point either in the style of a research paper in which I outlined my findings on a topic or it has been fictional freewriting. Typically for just about any assignment I selected a more research paper style of writing. This has been the style that was taught to me and the style that I feel comfortable with. The result of this is a lack of any personality or opinion I may have on a topic or subject that I am writing about. While this may have its advantages when, for example, reporting lab findings it also clear to me that it has its faults. When I am writing about a topic that is important to me, and the purpose of the writing is to explain how, a paper that simply outlines the research done isn't very helpful or wanted.

My portfolio, I believe, shows a very accurate depiction of how my writing style has evolved and changed into something more dynamic. The best example of this that I can think of would have to be the cultural mythology narrative. My first draft lacked any sort of personality in it, and while I may have not improved it as greatly as I could have, I learned more about to write a paper in a style like a narrative. The various in class writings also show my evolution quite well. I go from answering questions to a more fluid style where I am creating a story with a given prompt. I selected in class writings that showed a variation in my writing style rather than simply picking the best I could find.

One of the issues I face as a writer is that I tend to trail off. When I select a topic I do my research and eventually find myself researching and writing a paper on a very specific part of what was originally my topic. The issue in this is that I get distracted and I tend to choose bad topics to work with. This is something the inquiry project helped me work on. Although I may have made a mistake in selecting a topic, I avoided drifting into another topic. This will no doubt help me in the years to come in all sorts of writing.

My greatest take away from this class is a better understanding of my own writing, which may sound ridiculous. I never really write anything that I don't want to so I don't know how well I write, for example, narratives and that is what this class has shown me. It has shown me my limitations or rather where I need to work on in order to improve my writing. Overall this class has taught me more about writing and, considering that I really do like writing, it was been a big help.

Thank You for Being an Amazing Teacher!

Sincerely,

Dmitry Pustovit