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Practice Doesn’t Always Make Perfect

When you reach the end of a long journey what often happens is you are so excited that you actually made it you sometimes forget what it took to get there, other times you don’t want to remember what it took. The only problem with that is that all the lessons you learn aren’t taught at the end they are learned on the way and then, at the very end, you understand why those lessons are and will be so important. Now how does all of that relate to me, specifically in this class. I have never been the best at English, grammar and especial spelling are not in my list of skills. I’ve never liked reading or writing anything, ever. When it came to reading in a class, my face would turn red and my palms would become clammy, I was always afraid of the embarrassment of mispronouncing a word in front of everyone. I never wanted my friends to think I was stupid, I wanted to be accepted, I wanted to be normal. That was a long time ago and I would never want to go back to that. I look at what I am cable of now compared to then, I’m still not the best at spelling but now I can do it. I’m no longer afraid to read in class and I am much better at it now. I’ve come so far. But what did it take to get here? Practice, a whole lot of practice.

People always say that “practice makes perfect”, well I don’t agree with that. When I was younger my punishment would be to read a book for 30 minutes, it was the worst thing in the entire world. But if it wasn’t for my parents doing that I would have never improved to the point I am today. It was all that time my mom would force me read books that helped me learn to take all the letter on the page and have them tell me a story. There are still words that I come across that I can’t read but I’ll get the gist of it. Now I have had a lot more practice reading and spelling since then and I’m still improving but have learned one lesson looking back on all of that, passion does help practice.

I never wanted to read or wright, so I never improved that much, it wasn’t till I purpose and passion that I really did better at English. Once I started to understand why I need this skill that’s when I started to improve a lot more. Now because this is a semester reflection I’ll focus on one of the reasons I found this and how this class has helped fuel that.

Right now, I’m trying to get into the animation program and hopefully one day get into the industry. As an animator or game developer I didn’t really think that being able to write well would be an important skill. It wasn’t until our instructor sat us all down and lectured us about how we will never get a job in the industry if we can’t communicate with employers, customers, and associates. He told us how many of promotions in his career came because he was skilled in communication, specifically in writing. That really stood out to me because that’s something I’m not very good at. So, because of that I wanted to try harder to do well in English. I’ll never be perfect at it, but I can keep improving.

In this class we have learned a lot about so may things. But there are a few things that have really stood out to me that I know that I will take along with me. This first is the power of your voice and knowing who you are writing to. Before in all my English classes it was always the same thing. Write so that you sound smarter than you are. I never enjoyed it, I was writing because I had no not because I wanted to. In this class I, for the first time, realized that I could change that. I don’t need to write the same way every time, I can change that and put myself into my words. I’ve always felt like I was way better at speaking then writing because when I wrote it was never really me. It was something that I had to be. And now I know that it can be me.

The other thing I learned was how to do the layout of an argumentative paper. I never really understood how that should be done. I would just throw info into my paper and say here is why, but now I know to build up the argument and really sell your point with logos, ethos, and pathos. I’ve been told those before but until I learned about voice I could never really use them the way I wanted to.

Over this semester I have learned a lot, not everything just from this class but I have gotten a lot from here. Over all my years I just keep getting better and I know that’s the what it is supposed to be. From voice to argument, and even learning what rhetoric means, this semester has helped a lot. And though practice doesn’t make perfect, it does lead to improve.