**Writing Portfolio**

**Zack Chen**

W6A

Summer Writing Course

With Mr. J at Teachall

July-August 2020, Beijing

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**II**

**Journal Entries**

1. Do you enjoy writing? Why or why not?

2. What is the one thing that you want to change about yourself?

3. What unexpected thing happened to you recently? Why?

4. What are three reasons why the global pandemic is good?

5. Write a 200-300 word summary of the article using at least three direct quotes.

6. Write your opinion of the situation. Do you agree or disagree with the writer? Why?

7. What character traits are most important to you? Why?

8. Why do some people struggle to do the right thing?

9. What does it mean to have integrity?

10. What is the hardest lesson you’ve ever had to learn? Why?

11. What is your favorite way to show your individuality? Why?

12. If you could take home any animal from the zoo as a pet, which would you choose?

13. What is your favorite way to show your individuality?

14. Who is your hero? What inspires you about this person?

**I**

**Essays**

[Essay 1: My Crazy Day: Draft 1]

**My Crazy Day**

Last Friday, I finished my reading lesson at 6pm. I was exhausted. I was looking forward to a nice weekend, especially the *Super Brain Show* at 9:20pm. I decided to play basketball before dinner. Looking back, I wished I had stayed at home if I knew something crazy was going to happen so that I had to write my essay with one hand in the hospital.

It was a sunny day, fresh air, cool and a little windy. Perfect weather to play outside. I rushed into the basketball court. There were five stranger playing, they looked like thirty-ish. “Shall we play three on three?” They said OK, so we started. That day, my three point did not seem to work, so I tried to break through most of the time. To my surprise, they played very dirty. Whenever I shot, they tripped me or push me hard. “That’s a foul!” I cried, but they paid no attention, and started talking trash to me. Looking back, I should pick up the ball and leave, but I didn’t. I wanted to teach them a lesson. I ran with the ball as fast as I could, and jumped as high as possible. After I scored three times in a roll. When I jumped again, I felt a hard push on my thigh. “BOOM!”, I landed on my right arm and fell flat on the ground. There was a long silence. I didn’t feel the pain at first. I jumped up and kicked that jerk’s ass. He dashed out of the court like a skunk. I was just going to chase after him but my teammates pulled me over. They stared at my right hand, “Wha…What’s the matter?” I mumbled, moving my eye slowly to my right arm. I almost fainted…. My hand banded into a strange thirty-degree angel, I fell to the ground. “OMG! He broke his arm!” “Someone call the ambulance!” My mom happened to walk by. Someone called her. Her face turned whit, “Quick, let’s go to the hospital!“ She screamed. During rush hour, a taxi will get here a lot sooner than an ambulance. So we jumped into a taxi. I had to hold my arm all the time to not let it fall, blood dripped on my white shorts. I was so scared that I thought I may lose my arm. I was really upset. I worked so hard all day long and ready for a nice weekend. It only took thirty minutes to ruin everything.

We made to the hospital well known for treating bone fraction. It was so crowded. There were so many patients, adults and children, standing in the long corridor, having bone fraction in different parts of the bodies. They looked like they were in pain. After five hour waiting, I finally did a surgery for two hours. It was the first surgery in my life.

The lesson learned from this is that I should always put safety in the first place. Never play with scoundrels. Now I need to figure out how to have a decent summer vacation wit

[Essay 1: My Crazy Day: Draft 2]

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Word Count: ?

*Captain's Notes: Zack, great job writing this story – with one have in the hospital! I'm sorry you broke your arm playing basketball, but I'm glad you learned some important life lessons. And now you have a great story to tell… I've highlighted some of your mistakes and underlined some areas you need to rewrite. Please do you best to correct the essay on your own, then rename the file with “Draft2” and send it back to me. Thanks and I wish you get well soon!*

Draft 3

My Crazy Day

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[Essay 2: Making a Claim About a Historical Event: Draft 1]

The Spanish Flu Pandemic

Today, Covid-19 took over the planet. Many people died. This reminds me of a famous historical event – *the Spanish Flu*. It started in 1918, in a small place called Camp Funston, Kansas in the United States. The symptoms included fever and headache. In the summer, it spread quickly to the Europe. It infected almost one-third of the population all over the world. About 30 to 50 million people died. It also appeared in China in June. This was only the first wave.

The second wave started in August. On a boat from South Africa to the UK, almost 75 percent of the crew were infected. It also appeared in the Boston wharf around the same time. It was reported that there was an outbreak in France. By November, the Spanish flu took over both the US and Europe, and the rest of the world. Unlike an ordinary flu, the mortality was extremely high, especially among young population. October was the darkest month in the American history. 20 million people died in that month alone. It was not the end. A third wave started in the winter of 1919 in many parts of the world. By the winter of 1920, it disappeared mysteriously.

Why would people call it *the Spanish Flu*? It started during World War I. Many governments kept the outbreak as top secrets due to the war. Spain was a neutral country. The pandemic was first reported in the news there. So people assumed that it started in Spain. Trump called Covid-19 the Chinese virus or Wuhan virus. Scientists found Covid-19 virus in the waste water system in Italy back in 2019. Perhaps the virus co-existed with human beings for a long time, and it became more infectious in Wuhan last December. I hope that in the future, scientists can tell us where the virus really came from and how.

Why is the virus so dangerous, and what can we do to protect ourselves? As early as in 2015, during the Ebola outbreak, Bill Gates predicted that in the decade or two, an epidemic will present a huge challenge to human beings. We paid a lot of attention to nuclear wars, but very little to building a system to prevent epidemic outbreak. In fact, Bill Gates said that we didn’t even have a working system at all.

Today, it is a small world after all. Comparing with 1918, we have much advanced medicines and technology. I am confident that this will end soon and we can go back to normal lives. Governments should work together to fight the outbreak rather than pointing fingers. People should better protect themselves and others by wearing facial masks and stop big gathering. Scientists in different countries must work closely with each other to develop vaccine as soon as possible.

[Essay 2: Making a Claim About a Historical Event: Draft 2]

**The Spanish Flu Pandemic**

Today Covid-19 takes over the planet. Many people have died. This reminds me of a famous historical event – *the Spanish Flu*. According to *The Great Flu Influenza by John M. Barry*, it started in 1918, in a small place called Camp Funston, Kansas in the United States. The symptoms included fever and headache. In the summer, it spread quickly to ~~the~~ Europe. It infected almost one-third of the population all over the world. Per Bai du about 30 to 50 million people died. It also appeared in China in June. This was only the first wave.

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Today, it is a small world after all. Compare to 1918, we have much advanced medicines and technology. I am confident that this will end soon and we can move forward. Governments should work together to fight the outbreak rather than pointing fingers. People should better protect themselves and others by wearing facial masks and stop big gathered. Scientists in different countries must work closely with each other to develop vaccine as soon as possible.

Word Count: ?

Works Cited:

1. *~~The Washington Post~~*~~, November 10, 1918~~
2. ~~A Brief History of the World, by Jordon Shinn, 2020~~

Captain’s Notes: Dear Zack, great job writing this thoughtful essay. It’s important we remember past historical events so that we don’t repeat the same mistakes again. Remember to always cite your sources of information, so the reader can know exactly where you found your facts and be able to read your sources, too. This is very important! Also, try your best to keep an unbiased perspective in your essay. I know it’s easy to judge President Trump and it’s true that he is a great liar. But is he justified to call the coronavirus the “Chinese virus” or the “Wuhan virus”? Try to see the situation from his perspective, indeed, from the perspective of the Western world. To people outside China, it is clear where the virus came from. Only Chinese media seems to question its origin. I think it’s a matter of pride or denial. However, I do like your conclusion that we should not be pointing fingers. Instead, we should be helping each other to develop a vaccine to prevent more sickness and death. Regardless, I suppose a little bit of humility would go a long way. Pride and selfishness on the world stage seem to be the real diseases affecting international relations, in my humble opinion. No matter which country we come from, we share the same planet. So I hope you can do your part to create positive change in the future! Well written, Zack. Keep thinking, keep writing. And remember that the pen is mightier than the sword. If you master your words, then you will wield a power to change the world.

~ Captain

[Essay 3: Using Variety When Introducing Narrator’s Thoughts: Draft 1]

**Meeting Kevin Durant**

One day, I came home after school. At dinner table, my mom made an announcement. She got two tickets from her NBA China friend. I am going to Shenzhen to watch NBA game live. “Really?” I didn’t believe it. “Are you serious? Show me the tickets!” Of course she didn’t have the tickets. She said we would get the tickets in Shenzhen.

So my dad and I booked the tickets online. We flew to Shenzhen over the weekend. My mom stayed behind because she had some work to do, and she was not interested in basketball. I packed my Curry T-shirt. The superstar that I really wanted to meet was Kevin Durant. He just joined Warrior not very long ago. Unfortunately, I did not have a jersey with his name on.

Soon after we arrived in Shenzhen, we received a phone call from Mom. She made another announcement -- We were invited to the cocktail party the night before the game! “You are going to meet the superstars!” She said. “Really?” I could not believe it. “Wear your Curry shirt. Remember to get signatures!” I was too happy to think straight. We changed quickly in the hotel room and rushed to the party.

Around 7 p.m., my dad and I arrived at the party. The place was half empty. The music was noisy. The light was dim. “Where is everybody? Where are the stars?” I was a little disappointed. Suddenly, I saw a kid holding a basketball. I realized that I didn’t bring any paper or a basketball for the stars to sign on. “Damn it!” I thought. “Can we go back to the hotel room?” I asked desperately. “No, we don’t have time.” Said my dad. My plan was ruined. I was really upset. “It’s alright,” My dad calmed me down, “We could take photos with them.”

Half an hour later, I still hadn’t spotted any player. “Maybe they are jetlagged. They are not coming.” I mumbled disappointedly. All of a sudden, I spotted my dad chatting with a guy, someone very tall, “Who is that?” I walked towered them. The guy nodded to me: “Hello. You must be Zack!” He said cheerfully. “Kevin, meet my son Zack!” My dad introduced me, “Zack, meet…” “Oh My God!” I shouted, standing right in front of me was was a tall bold black man, he was in a black suit and a yellow cap. His eyebrows were thick and dark. His eyes were small and deep. His face looked bright. He smiled:” Hey what’s up kido, how ya’ll doing!” “Your K…KD!” My face brightened, for I’d never thought of meeting this guy one day. I wanted to tell him how good he played, and how I supported him no matter what choice he’d made, and I wanted to tell him how hard I’d worked to be able to play like him, but I was too nervous to say a word.

After a while, I said “Kevin, may I take a picture with you?” “Yeah sure!” My dad turned on his phone, “Say Chee-“ “Yo Kevin,” someone came over, “We’ve got a meeting in ten minutes. Let’s go!” He dragged Kevin from my side, “Sorry!” He shouted disappointedly, “Bye!” I shouted faintly behind.

I hope Kevin enjoyed his visit to China. I certainly hope to meet with him again in the future.

[Essay 3: Using Variety When Introducing Narrator’s Thoughts: Draft 2]

**Meeting Kevin Durant**

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[Story Arc: Essay 3: Using Variety When Introducing Narrator’s Thoughts]

[Essay 4: Narrative Writing Exercise: Draft 1]

[Essay 4: Narrative Writing Exercise: Draft 2]

[Story Arc: Essay 4: Narrative Writing Exercise]

[Essay 5: Writing from the Point of View of a Fictional Character: Draft 1]

**The Last Emperor and His Bicycles**

My name is Pu Yi. I was the last emperor of China. I ascended the throne when I was three-year-old. I grew up in the Forbidden City. In the early 19 century, China was way behind the world. Even though I was the Emperor, I did not get to see many things from other countries. I’d never forget that summer when I first saw a bicycle.

When I got married, people all over China came over to celebrate. I received thousands of precious presents, but none of it made me particularly interested. One day, my cousin came to visit me. He bought something to me as a present, something that I’ve never seen before.

“Your majesty,” He introduced proudly, “May I present you a bicycle.”

“Bicycle?” I muttered, “What is a bicycle?”

My cousin giggled with excitement: “This bicycle came from a place far away. It came from Europe!”

“Really!” I stared at it with great curiosity. It’s about one-meter-high, in black, and two circles standing on the ground.

“What’s that for?” I asked.

“Oh, this is called a bicycle. These are the wheels. These are the armrests. These are the pedals, and this is the the seat. Westerners ride bicycles to go to different places.”

“Let me show you!” He leaped on that bicycle, grasped the armrests tightly, and zoomed away. The wheels turned so fast. It looked so fascinating. I wanted to give it a try. “Your majesty!” one of my staff objected, “This is dangerous.”

“Nonsense!” I replied, sitting on the seat, holding the armrests tightly, and slowly put my feet on the pedal. Immediately, I lost balance. “Help!” I cried. My cousin held the bicycle to prevent me from falling to the ground. “Just look straight. Easy” He encouraged.

The next few days, we practiced and practiced. Soon I was able to ride bicycle by myself. I ended up buying twenty bicycles, imported from France, Germany and the US. My empress also learned how to ride a bicycle. We rode together in the Forbidden City. But there was one more problem. There were too many gates in the Forbidden City. Each gate had a threshold which was the symbol of power. We could not ride through the gates. I wanted to take them off so that we could ride from palace to palace. Of course the empress dowager did not agree. One day she was sick, I ordered to take the thresholds off immediately. When the empress dowager found out later, it was too late.

[Essay 5: Writing from the Point of View of a Fictional Character: Draft 2]

**The Last Emperor and His Bicycles**

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[Story Arc: Essay 5: Writing from the Point of View of a Fictional Character]

[Essay 6: Analyzing Literature: Noticing the Author’s Choices in “How the Leopard Got His Spots” by Rudyard Kipling: Draft 1]

W6A, Lesson 12, Essay 6, Draft 1

Zack Chen

Topic: Analyzing Literature: Noticing Author’s Choices in "How the Leopard Got His Spots" by Rudyard Kipling

**Analyzing Literature: Noticing Author’s Choices in "How the Leopard Got His Spots"**

I think this is a very fun story, it vividly tells us how the leopard got its spots. In this little story, the author made many great choices, such as using per

First of all, the author chose to personify the animals using anthropomorphism. I think he let them speak so we could understand their emotions and attitude, and it also could advance the influence of the article. But even though the author had uses anthropomorphic animals, he still keeps some characteristic of the animals, such as migration, camouflage, the food chain…so when people are reading, they can also learn some biology.

Secondly, I think the author also chose to make the world in the story more harmonious, such as the hunter and the leopard chose to team up, and the animals chose to have a meeting, its pretty funny, and the author also developed so many interesting animals, that showed how attractive the nature was. And I think maybe the author was trying to call to protect the environment, the wonderful species. And he might also want more people to appreciate what a beautiful world God gave us.

And finally, I think the author also tried to inspire the readers be a good people, to let us be polite, because the leopard wasn’t polite he didn’t get the massage where the animals were, and the hunter gave the chimpanzee enough respect so he got the massage. And also, it reminds us that we need to change as the time passed by, we had to change so we could catch up with the movement of time. The leopard got his spots because he had to camouflage himself.

[Essay 6: Analyzing Literature: Noticing the Author’s Choices in “How the Leopard Got His Spots” by Rudyard Kipling: Draft 2]

W6A, Lesson 12, Essay 6, Draft 1

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[Story Arc: Essay 6: Analyzing Literature: Noticing the Author’s Choices in “How the Leopard Got His Spots” by Rudyard Kipling]

[Essay 7: Narrative Worksheet: Short Story: Draft 1]

[Essay 7: Narrative Worksheet: Short Story: Draft 2]

[Essay 8: Letter to Captain: Draft 1]

Dear Captain:

Hi!

It’s been a long time having this writing class, I clearly remembered that how bad I wrote before I charge in this class, and how much I hated English writing, but after joining this class, I think my English writing is much better, I had much more enthusiasm and confidence now, I had wrote seven essays, nine diaries and so on. There’s lots of things I had learned.

First, I knew how to use vocabularies in my own essays, I know how to sublimate the article in only one word, I know how to transform a word to bunch of fancy words. It makes writing more easier and more fun. And also, I have formed the habit of keeping a diary, using English to record my life, to seek for the beauty of life.

Secondly, I knew how to read an article, how to use a story arc to simplifies the article, and I know how to appreciate the authors writing. And how to learn from the article. And we also read a lot of interesting story arcs.

And lastly, I think we can improve some technical issues next time, it wasted a lot of time. For example, we can fix our microphone and camorras next time before class so we can go much faster.

Thank you Captain and Ms. Shannon of this wonderful class. And I hope we can meet again next summer!

Thanks and best regards

Zack Chen

2020.08.12

[Essay 8: Letter to Captain: Draft 2]

**II**

**Journal Entries**

[Journal 1: Do you enjoy writing? Why or why not?: Draft 1]

Do you enjoy writing?

I started writing since first grade. My Chinese teacher asked us to write diaries everyday. Sometimes I wrote about what happened in school or at home, sometimes I wrote a novel that I imagined. Writing is the best way to express feelings. I enjoyed it so much that I even wanted to become a writer when I grew up. In the fifth grade, I became an editor in chief of our class magazine. A lot of work, but fun. Writing is an important way to record our childhood. I am sure we will enjoy reading it in 10 years.

[Journal 1: Do you enjoy writing? Why or why not?: Draft 2]

Do you enjoy writing?

I started writing since first grade. My Chinese teacher asked us to write diaries everyday. Sometimes I wrote about what happened in school or at home, sometimes I wrote a novel that I imagined. Writing is the best way to express feelings. I enjoyed it so much that I even wanted to become a writer when I grew up. In the fifth grade, I became an editor in chief of our class magazine. A lot of work, but fun. Writing is an important way to record our childhood. I am sure we will enjoy reading it in 10 years.

[Journal 2: What is the one thing that you want to change about yourself?: Draft 1]

I would like to change one thing about myself

If there’s one thing I would like to change about myself, that’s time management. For example, when I played Tik Tok, time flies by. I felt that I only played for 5 minutes, 30 minutes went by. When I read novels, time seemed to freeze. Perhaps I should consider using alarms to help track time.

[Journal 2: What is the one thing that you want to change about yourself?: Draft 2]

I would like to change one thing about myself

If there’s one thing I would like to change about myself, that’s time management. For example, when I played Tik Tok, time flies by. I felt that I only played for 5 minutes, 30 minutes went by. When I read novels, time seemed to freeze. Perhaps I should consider using alarms to help track time.

[Journal 3: What unexpected thing happened to you recently? Why?: Draft 1]

**Journal 3 Prompt: What unexpected thing happened to you recently? Why?**

My arm was broken last Friday. It was the last school day. I was ready for a fun summer break, after Covid-19 and final exams. I wanted to start the summer break with a basketball match. Then, boom, I felt hard and was injured. Now my right arm was wrapped in hard plastics. I still hope to have a decent vacation after all.

[Journal 3: What unexpected thing happened to you recently? Why?: Draft 2]

**Journal 3 Prompt: What unexpected thing happened to you recently? Why?**

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[Journal 4: What are three reasons why the global pandemic is good?: Draft 1]

**Journal 4 Prompt: What are three reasons why the global pandemic is good?**

First, due to quarantine, we spend more time with our family. Second, we spend more time to do our hobbies. Third, because of the quarantine air quality has improves。

[Journal 4: What are three reasons why the global pandemic is good?: Draft 2]

**Journal 4 Prompt: What are three reasons why the global pandemic is good?**

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[Journal 5: Write a 200-300 word summary of the article using at least three direct quotes.: Draft 1]

**Journal 5 Prompt: Write a 200-300 word summary, using at least 3 direct quotes.**

The article is about a group of monkeys from Thailand that were trained to pick up coconuts. “The monkeys are snatched from the wild and trained to pick up to 1, 000 coconuts a day”, according to People or the Ethical Treatment of Animals (“Peta”). Monkeys in Thailand were treated to be “coconuts-picking machine”. Monkeys were used to supply two of the best-known coconut milk brands. Peta reported that there were eight farm that trained monkeys, it also appeals the stores in the UK to not buy coconuts from Thailand farms. The group also discovered monkey schools that trained monkeys to do sports and activities.

[Journal 5: Write a 200-300 word summary of the article using at least three direct quotes.: Draft 2]

**Journal 5 Prompt: Write a 200-300 word summary, using at least 3 direct quotes.**

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[Journal 6: Write your opinion of the situation. Do you agree or disagree? Why?: Draft 1]

**Journal 6 Prompt: You opinion of the situation. Do you agree or disagree with the writer? What do you think?**

I agree with Peta that people should respect animal rights. We shouldn’t snatch animals from the wild and force them to work for us.

[Journal 6: Write your opinion of the situation. Do you agree or disagree? Why?: Draft 2]

**Journal 6 Prompt: You opinion of the situation. Do you agree or disagree with the writer? What do you think?**

I agree with Peta that people should respect animal rights. We shouldn’t snatch animals from the wild and force them to work for us.

[Journal 7: What character traits are most important to you? Why?: Draft 1]

What character traits are most important to you? Why?

I think the most important characteristic is kind, people should be kind to themselves, to others, to the nature.

[Journal 7: What character traits are most important to you? Why?: Draft 2]

What character traits are most important to you? Why?

I think the most important characteristic is kind, people should be kind to themselves, to others, to the nature.

[Journal 8: Why do some people struggle to do the right thing?: Draft 1]

Why do some people struggle to do the right thing?

Because people are all selfish and they want their heads up, so they struggle to do the right thing.

[Journal 8: Why do some people struggle to do the right thing?: Draft 2]

Why do some people struggle to do the right thing?

Because people are all selfish and they want their heads up, so they struggle to do the right thing.

[Journal 9: What does it mean to have integrity?: Draft 1]

What does it mean to have integrity?

My mom is the Chief Compliance Officer of GE in China. Her work is all about integrity. She told me that integrity means one shall be honest, not only to others, but also to himself.

[Journal 9: What does it mean to have integrity?: Draft 2]

What does it mean to have integrity?

My mom is the Chief Compliance Officer of GE in China. Her work is all about integrity. She told me that integrity means one shall be honest, not only to others, but also to himself.

[Journal 10: What is the hardest lesson you’ve ever had to learn? Why?: Draft 1]

What is the hardest lesson you’ve ever had to learn? Why?

Last week, mom and I walked to the man who pushed me to the ground during basketball game. He first denied that he did it. After mom threatened to sue him, he reluctantly apologized to me. The lesson I learned is that I need to be more cautious about who to play with. Apparently this is a guy with no integrity.

[Journal 10: What is the hardest lesson you’ve ever had to learn? Why?: Draft 2]

What is the hardest lesson you’ve ever had to learn? Why?

Last week, mom and I walked to the man who pushed me to the ground during basketball game. He first denied that he did it. After mom threatened to sue him, he reluctantly apologized to me. The lesson I learned is that I need to be more cautious about who to play with. Apparently this is a guy with no integrity.

[Journal 11: What is your favorite way to show your individuality? Why?: Draft 1]

[Journal 11: What is your favorite way to show your individuality? Why?: Draft 2]

[Journal 12: If you could take home any animal from the zoo as a pet, which would you choose?: Draft 1]

[Journal 12: If you could take home any animal from the zoo as a pet, which would you choose?: Draft 2]

[Journal 13: What is your favorite way to show your individuality?: Draft 1]

[Journal 13: What is your favorite way to show your individuality?: Draft 2]

[Journal 14: Who is your hero? What inspires you about this person?: Draft 1]

[Journal 14: Who is your hero? What inspires you about this person?: Draft 2]