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Essay 4 Draft 2

What the Heck is an Autoethnography?

Hoo-boy, I’ve got a paper to write. There’s time still. Plenty of time left to write, but what about? What topic, which details, what mode, whose voice? Give it one, just one, more day. Listen to some music and make sure to think about details and support and sources. Do some Googling. Good, I have a topic; even better, I like the topic too. Now I need to write everything down before I forget. Scratch paper, this will be my outline. Nope, I just scribbled ideas all over it instead. That’ll work, it makes sense in my head but I need to write quickly now to get everything down before I forget. Done. Read it again. Fix some spelling and grammar. Randomly delete a few commas because I use too many. Try using some semicolons because those look sophisticated. There, I like this paper, I’m proud to turn it in. But what about the other papers? The ones where I come up empty for a thesis, or have a topic that I don’t like. It doesn’t work. I search for that topic, and it evades me. I research, and just find it boring and unhelpful. The writing process becomes a limpid deadweight and I resent the frustration it presents me. Those papers suck. Even if they get a good grade I wish for a second chance to write again, this time for a topic that interests me; an opportunity to really investigate something cool. But assignments don’t get second chances, and I’m back to the part where my paper sucks. This is my writing style, my workflow. Through middle and high school I’ve developed to write very particularly and succinctly. Learning how to draft and revise papers has allowed me to better meet deadlines and avoid due date panic.