**My Style in Academia and Assorted Activities**

My third language is English. Although I use mostly only English, I learned Chinese and Spanish fluently beforehand. No, I cannot speak fluent Chinese or Spanish anymore. My first school was a Spanish emersion school in California where they taught in Spanish. Before I spoke English well, I competed in games such as Four-Square or Pogo. Ever since I grasped English as a tool for communicating, my style in the classroom developed into something like an imaginary competition. For example, my first memory of a literacy experience happened when I was in kindergarten, where I was paired up with a classmate to read together. I would always attempt to read faster than them because for some reason that meant I was faster (even though I wasn’t actually reading or understanding anything). I must emphasize that I don’t actually compete in classrooms; that would be disastrous for my academics. Instead, I tend to evaluate the work of others. Looking at other’s strengths and weaknesses, comparing them to my own, and gleaming knowledge from them helps me better myself. I am always competing with myself, taking advice from people and observing my environment to produce a better result.

During my first season in Color Guard, began a conflict of miscommunication that I never truly resolved until the end of my junior year summer. It was a bad literacy experience. Being a part of the marching band can be stressful for individuals and those in the group. One of my teammates, who marched beside me for most the show’s drill, often immediately corrected any mistake on my part. She never failed to notice any mistakes that I made. At first, it always felt like she was singling me out, or trying to make me feel insufficient in my choreography or drill. Although her tone was generally harsh and condescending, I now believe that she meant well and really wanted me to improve for the betterment of the group. After getting to know her for a bit, I realize the way she talked was part of her personality. I shouldn’t have taken it personally. Nowadays I try to be aware of my feelings when I take criticism. I don’t take it personally and I try see what the next logical steps are instead of feeling attacked. However, it can be hard when I’m grumpy.

Now that college is here, my chosen major will present many challenges with new literacy experiences. I know that I must become and expert at oral, visual, professional, and team communication. My classes, internships, and activities come will likely prepare me to perform and exercise my literacy experience in a real professional environment.