

Personal Literacy Statement

When I look back on my path as a writer, I see a rocky one. I've always perceived writing as an opinionated topic, having to always pick a side. I am an indecisive person who always sees both sides of things with their own pros and cons. The question "Do you agree or disagree with the author?" brought up a conflict in me. I could never decide if I agreed or disagreed. When writing an opinionated paper, I'd include points about both sides, contradicting myself, lessening the impact of my paper and in turn, it becomes a pile of mush. Though, as I've progressed, I've gotten better at sticking to what side I'm on. One of the reasons why I chose to pursue STEM was because it's less opinionated and most of the time there is a clear answer.

I see myself as an uncreative person. I sometimes feel that I work twice as hard to find an idea to work with, compared to others where ideas flow endlessly in their heads. Reading Lamott's paper gave me peace of mind, she states that some people think the best writers magically sit down and know exactly what to write, but in reality, that isn't true at all (Lamott, A. (1994), para 1). Writing to me feels like it exerts the same amount of effort as a sprint. Instead of feeling the fatigue in my body, it's in my mind. Rushing myself to spit out the next word as if I am forcing my feet to keep taking the next step.

In Anne Lamott's "Shitty First Drafts", she highlights the importance of the first draft in starting to write anything successful. She states, "Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere. Start by getting something -- anything -- down on paper" (Lamott, A. (1994), para 10). I strongly agree with Lamott. The first draft isn't supposed to be perfect. Its purpose is to get your mind going with ideas. I constantly

forget that and once I start to write, I become stuck, re-writing and re-reading the same paragraph. At times, it feels like I'm in an endless loop. All I need is to remind myself of the first draft's main purpose; to relieve the pressure of it having to be flawless on the first try, and to guide writers into creating something they can take pride in.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lamott, A. (1994). Shitty First Drafts. *Bird by Bird*

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