



Moanalua High School

The Journey Of Growing

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Expository Writing/World Literature - 3

Mrs. Chang

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Introduction

This portfolio is what I have gathered that best represents me and makes me feel proud and accomplished. It shows that I may not be perfect and get A's on everything I do, but I learn and grow no matter the grade, topic, or kind of project. At the end of this portfolio, I hope you can see me better with who I am and though I may need some work, it is important to remember that no one is perfect. The most important takeaway I hope is taken from this portfolio is that hard work will always pay off whether that's your grade or just growing and finding yourself as a person. Some assignments I enjoyed and thrived, others I struggled and hated, however, in both kinds of assignments, I grew to know what I do and don't like and how to adjust and deal with things I may not like. We grow every day and this portfolio is a representation of just that: growing.

Expository Essay Reflection

The piece that is on the next page is something I chose for an expository essay because I wrote this piece during Expository 2 which helped me think deeper into why I was choosing a certain topic to advocate for. This piece specifically introduced me to the idea of having deeper thoughts into what I say, do, think, etc. I chose to advocate for plastic pollution, but until writing this piece, I did it because I just thought it was good for the environment. It was the idea of doing what is right rather than what makes doing this right. Though the writing itself had many errors and didn't receive the best grade, it still allowed me to learn to think deeper and grow from those mistakes.

Plastic Pollution in the waters of Hawai'i

Around the world, every day, every minute, and every second, a marine animal is harmed by plastic that pollutes the oceans. Every piece of land on Earth is surrounded by some sort of body of water, and the Hawaiian Islands are one of them. In 2019, a study was published in the journal of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that stated "Hawaiian fish begin eating plastic particles just days after being born," (Paragraph 5, Barney and Van Dyke). I eat those fish and I like to observe and educate myself about those fish. I chose to advocate plastic pollution in the waters of Hawaii because I grew up living in the Pacific ocean and I love to eat and observe marine life.

Plastic pollution in the waters of Hawaii is especially important to me because I feel if Hawaii is my new home, I don't want anything bad happening to it. I love Hawaii for the waters and being able to snorkel or even see the state fish. I used to live in Japan and I could not see the fish in the water and the beach wasn't that close. To me, being able to live on this island is a blessing. I no longer have to spend thousands of dollars on plane tickets and hotels, I can come to paradise free. However, Hawaii cannot be paradise if the beaches aren't gorgeous and if the water is covered with plastic. Hawaii cannot be paradise if there is no life in or around the water. Everything will feel dead, negative, and sad. Marine life makes ocean life and is happy. If plastic pollution continues, marine wildlife will no longer exist and the ocean will not glisten in the sun or look alive.

The consumption of seafood can also be extremely beneficial to human beings. I personally like seafood and it makes me feel healthier and lighter. According to the Food Network "All fish supply high amounts of protein, have low levels of saturated fat and contain vitamin E ... Seafood benefits people with diabetes, can contribute calcium to one's diet, and

may reduce the risk of asthma in children," (Paragraph 2, Food Network). If all seafood dies, more children may have asthma and there could be a less supply of proteins, vitamin E, and low leveled saturated fat. Seafood is delicious and to think the future generation may not get the chance to eat authentic, wild fish or Ahi is heartbreaking.

Marine wildlife is also very unknown. Research shows 91 percent of ocean species are undiscovered and 96 percent of the ocean is unexplored. Imagine never getting to know what is in the deep trenches of the ocean. What if there's a prehistoric animal that lurks in the depths of the sea, but will never be discovered because it consumes an organism that consumes plastic. I personally love the unknown of the ocean. I want to know more, I want to know what is down there, what swims under me, what comes up at night that we can't see. I want to know more about every little organism that is undiscovered and if plastic pollution continues to float around the water anywhere, then that may never happen. The goal of discovering all ocean organisms may never happen even with future technology because humans now don't know how to be conservative or respectful to the environment that surrounds us. Some humans don't appreciate what we already have and think of themselves. We tend to think we are the center of the world and refuse to acknowledge the damage we do to our beautiful surroundings.

If the organisms in the ocean die due to our incapability to contain the plastic we, humans, dump into the water, then we are to blame for the loss of jobs, attractions, and decline of the economy. One in six jobs in the United States relies on the ocean. Over 28 million jobs are supported by coastal and marine waters. (Paragraph 1, NOAA). Marine biologists and other marine researchers will no longer have anything in the ocean to research. Fishermen will have run out of jobs due to no fish to catch. Ocean tourism will soon come to an end due to nothing

interesting or beautiful to look at. So many jobs will be lost without marine life and the ocean in general.

In the end, I picked plastic pollution in the waters of Hawaii because I feel Hawaii is such a delicate home we must take care of. Starting with protecting the organism we harm, we should pick up after ourselves and take care of things that cannot take care of themselves. I feel we should treat our environment the same way we should treat elders or handicap. We must feel and help the helpless and we must protect what is so valuable to the planet we all live on. Ocean pollution hits close to my heart because I have a love and interest in ocean organisms and to see or hear about them struggling is such a disappointment to human beings. We should never make anything suffer the ways we don't want to suffer. I believe the same saying applies that "don't do unto others what you don't want done unto you," (Confucius).

Personal Essay Reflection

The piece I chose for my personal essay was, of course, my personal narrative. Japan is a big part of my life, so, what better essay to add to my personal essay than the essay I talk about me moving from Japan to Hawaii. This essay got a really bad grade because it is so messy, but I still really like it because I feel it best describes me. The journey from Japan to Hawaii itself was really impactful to my life and I think and hope this essay is understandable enough to understand. Moving to Hawaii helped me grow in ways I couldn't if I was still in Japan and for that I am grateful. Though I wish I wrote this essay better, at least I wrote it in the first place.

Japan to Hawaii

On August 1, 2019, I officially left Japan with a one-way ticket to Honolulu, Hawaii. The rush of all the emotions I felt was insane. Almost like I didn't know what to feel or what was right to feel. All from one night, I was upset with my school overall and told my parents that it's okay that we move...and they took that seriously and that is what happened. It was eye-opening, a challenge, and scary; I was homesick, sad, and insecure; but, it ended up being okay.

Moving from Japan to Hawaii was eye-opening, a challenge, and most scary. Coming from a country where the culture is known to be more polite and not have as many murders, kidnappings, and etc., was a big adjustment for me. Although I never was comfortable walking around Japan by myself, I felt less comfortable doing the same thing here. It was and still is kind of a challenge to go places by myself in Hawaii just because I have a constant fear of something happening. The best solution I came up with was always having a key in my hand. I could probably never get myself to actually stab someone, but I do hold it because it makes me comfortable. Sometimes that is all that matters.

Moving away from my home was hard. I was homesick, sad, and insecure. I still am homesick every day, but I always remember to be grateful that at least we have places like Marukai, Nijia, and Don Quijote. However, it's not just the food I miss... I miss my friends and family. I miss knowing where I am and the places around me. Moving to Hawaii made me really sad at first. Everyone dreams to live here... but it wasn't how I pictured it to be. I pictured it to where I could start new and experience new things. It made me feel lonely and very scared. I went to a DODEA school on an Air Force base so I met new people all the time and I tried making them feel as comfortable as they could... but I never wanted to be that new kid. Going to Moanalua for the first time was scary and intimidating. Everyone I saw was so pretty and had

many friends which made me jealous and insecure. I still get jealous of people who have their friends since middle and elementary school, I miss having that. However, I feel this all made me grow and step out of my comfort zone.

Lastly, moving to Hawaii ended up being okay. I was okay and nothing bad happened to me. I survived my first school year at Moanalua and now start my senior year. Although it wasn't how I imagined it to be, I have friends, I have a home, I am getting my education and aiming for an academic honors diploma. I'm happy in a place I once thought I wouldn't be happy at. Moving to Hawaii allowed me to experience change and challenge myself. Maybe something said "your life in Japan is getting too easy and simple...let's switch it up," and so that was exactly what happened. I dreaded life in Hawaii at first, but in the end, it taught me many things that I could only learn here.

In conclusion, moving to Hawaii has made me feel very accomplished and grateful. Not everyone can afford to live or even visiting Hawaii. Hawaii is a hard place to live, but I am so grateful I get to experience life in a place other than Japan. I feel this can prepare me for my future in college and life. All my siblings had to live in a safe lifestyle (Japan) and adjust to not-so-safe America very fast all by themselves, but I got to experience both before having to go on my own. Through all the challenges I faced moving to Hawaii, I always made it out with little solutions to my little problems. It was a roller coaster of emotions, but I made it off the ride "daijoubu" ("daijoubu" kind of means "okay", but I changed it to something I always say with family). Japan will always be my home, but it doesn't I can't make Hawaii the second-best home. I am only grateful for the life I have, and not the life I don't.

Creative Piece Reflection

This piece is another example of a time that taught me to look deeper into something that may look clear and simple. The video was an old man playing chess by himself. However, if you look deeper, one perspective would be an old man who may feel lonely but plays two different roles for his amusement. This piece is a perfect representation of how I learned to grow and look deeper into things. This is one of the many times my assignment was to find the deeper reason for something rather than look at the bigger, simpler picture. Though this writing was rushed, on the spot, and had some errors, it allowed me to grow and find the why in things more fast and efficiently.

Timed Writing Assignment

After watching the video, I see an old man playing chess or checkers by himself. He has grey hair, bushy eyebrows, wrinkly, glass, short, hunched over a little, bald on the top of his head, a big nose, voice sounds a little scratchy, and moves slowly. He isn't with anyone else because no one else seems to be around. The game he is playing has a checkerboard with pieces that look like horses, crowns, and other things on the top. The game includes two different colors, black and beige, suggesting it is usually played with two people.

To play the game he moves the black pieces and is nice, gentle, sweet, and happy. He walks to the other side of the table and moves the beige pieces. He is now rude and aggressive. He then goes back to the black pieces side and repeats over and over. This suggests he is playing by himself but acting like two different people.

He is playing on a picnic table in the middle of open grass and trees. These trees seem to be changing color from green to red, yellow, orange, and brown shades. This suggests it is fall time. The leaves are also falling and shaking from the wind and the old man is wearing a long-sleeved shirt with long pants and closed-toed shoes. This must suggest that it is a little cold from the wind but not cold enough to wear a big jacket.

The old man might play chess (or checkers) a lot because he is enjoying it and not thinking too hard about the basic rules. He is also a good actor when playing two different people. The old man also doesn't really look around to see if people are watching, suggesting he is comfortable playing by himself.

The old man's legs might be bad or injured because when he walks from chair to chair, he is limping/wobblings. This man also seems to be single because there is no ring around his finger. This suggests that he is used to taking care of himself and doing things on his own.

This old man may have used to be an actor because he is very good at acting. He pretended to be choking and can't breathe to make the mean guy feel bad, only to trick him and just get a chance to flip the board to the side where the gentleman wins.

The old man might be located somewhere in Europe because the music that is playing is kind of what I would hear in the European-themed area at Disney. The music is very uplifting and instrumental.

The old man is wearing a white shirt with a red tie and black blazer. This might suggest his job is formal and more business-like.

After observing the video, I can say the man is old, alone in Italy, loves playing chess, and a great actor. He might be hurt somewhere due to his limp. He is also very good at playing chess, considering he can beat himself. He also seems to be polite and gentle by the way he gently set up his game and was slow. He held his chair as he slowly sat down. He may have been in a little pain or it was just a lot of work for him because he made a sound as if he felt relief once he actually sat. The old man also might still be working due to his formal attire.

Persuasive Essay Reflection

I have written many argumentative and persuasive essays, however, this specific one is what I am most proud of because it is something I truly believed in and wanted to make a difference about. All the other essays were more for the grade rather than the topic which I learned makes a big difference in the depth of the writing. This persuasive essay was from the advocacy project which was one of the first things I felt very passionate about advocating for. Though most of my essays may have errors and flaws, this one I feel like has the deepest impact when it comes to passion. Growing the personal and emotional connection for any writing piece will allow me to become a better and efficient writer. Another accomplishment from this essay was learning how to refer to another partner's writing and take their information for granted because we are a group.

Reuse and Recycle

Plastic pollution in the oceans around the world is a recurring issue and has been a big issue for awhile now. Living on the islands of Hawaii, especially, impacts our lives more directly. We go to these beaches for family gatherings, parties, surfing, swimming, bodyboarding, and so much more. Doesn't swimming with a plastic bottle, or plastic waste in general bother you? Isn't thinking of the fact that the fish we eat may be consuming this our own plastic waste?

Referring to Gavin Kibby's "Why I chose..." essay, Hawaii is east of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch which could be one of the causes of the plastic pollution in and around the islands of Hawaii. With the currents from the ocean moving constantly and swiftly, the garbage patch we created is floating around and little fragments are dispersing to around the pacific ocean or even world. Nature can fix and adapt to many things on its own, but plastic pollution is not one of them. This will only get worse as time goes on unless we do something about it.

Like Preston Silva's "Why I chose..." essay said, imagine diving into the water hoping to open your eyes and see clear water. Imagine being able to see for as far as your true eyesight can take you rather than the ocean's salinity. Imagine how much more of the underwater, unknown world we would be able to see. It'd be so disappointing if one day we can only see two feet in front of us, and we don't fix our bad habits now, we will all soon be disappointed.

Looking at the Cause and Effect essay written by Preston Silva and the Interview essay written by Gavin Kibby, both research and evidence states that most plastics that are in the oceans are from human littering. Over 80% of the plastic in the oceans is from humans not noticing and being careless or reckless. It could make such a big impact if we educated ourselves and started contributing to recycling and reusing as much as we could.

We all should know our world, nature, and Earth in general is slowly dying. Some may not see it, but it's occurring more and more rapidly as time goes on. What if we started teaching our younger generations while they are young so they can have a bigger impact when they get older. What if we recycled our plastic bottles, reused our plastic bags, or even got reusable bags. What if we gave our future generations a better, happier future and earth all together. We can do it, we just must work together and start now.

Outside Piece Reflection

This is something that my Sensei (Japanese Teacher) assigned me last minute. It is a speech I had to record for this thing called “Hanashikata”. The prompt was “夏休み” which means “Summer Break” and I wrote it with the help of my mom. My journey moving here and leaving Japan is something that most people don’t know about me (even though there are multiple pieces about it here) and talking about it can be hard and difficult, however, in this speech, I not only grew my Japanese vocabulary and writing skills, but I also grew in the sense of expressing myself without the feeling of judgement but rather growth. I think I did well trying to express my emotion and passion in this speech.

夏休み の 旅立ち

皆さんこんにちは。私 は コーカー サマンサ です。モアナルア 高校 3 年生 です。日本で 生まれて ハワイ に 来るまで 日本 に 住んでいました。でも、2018 年 に 親たちが ハワイ に 住もう と 言い始めました、それで 私 は すこし、かなしく になりました。

高校 2 年生 に なり、友達と いしょに いられるのも 今年 が さいご だ と思うと さらに 寂しく になりました。でも、私は その 年 を せいいばい 楽しもうと おもいました。私は ホームカミング、チーア、プロム、バンド、ぜんぶ 楽しみました。かぞく も 日本で やって おきたい こと を しました。おんせん に 行ったり、おいしい 物 を 食べたり、友達 と パーティー を したり、渋谷 で 買い物 を したり たくさん 楽しい 思い出 を 作りました。でも 一番 楽しい 思い出 に なったのは ディズニー と フジキューハイランド です。私は ジェットコースター が 大好き なので、毎日 乗っても 大丈夫 な ぐらい です。

ハワイ に 来ること に なって 心配なのは 私 の おばあちゃん です。なぜなら おばあちゃん は 一人で 日本 に 住んで いるからです。でも たくさん の人 が 助けってくれるので、少し 安心 です。

日本 を 出る 日 が ちがずき 私は ともだち の 家 に おともし 大好きな セブンイレブンの 晩ごはん と スナック たくさん かって、映画 を 見ました。夏休み の 中 で 一番 しあわせ な 日 でした。

ハワイ に 来るの は とても こわくて、ふあん でしたが、ハワイ に 来た おかげで たくさん 友達 も 作って、いろいろな こと を 学ぶ こと が できました。この 夏休み は たびじ の よう で けっして わすれません。

Q4 Novel Poem Reflection

This assignment was probably one of the hardest assignments I ever had for language arts. I have written a poem before, but never one where I can't make up my own lines from scratch. However, this assignment really helped me tie the book and its lessons to me and my life. It also challenged me to push harder and achieve something that I didn't really think I could. I think this piece may be everywhere, but that shows who I am even more. My thinking is really messy and all over the place which shows in my writing a little and I think this poem really reflects who I am overall. It started sad and insecure, but grew to something powerful, confident, and positive. I am really proud of my finishing product for many reasons including me and how I was able to actually accomplish something I could be proud of that I usually wasn't because poems are simply not meant for me but this time, I made it for me.

Samantha and *Her*

She **dried** up (P)

Like a **raisin** in the **SUN** (P)

She was feeling **sorry** for herself, and lamenting the fact that her life

could have changed **so** suddenly and **so** drastically (N44)

She didn't know when the **war** would **end** (N89)

It was her *fear of failure* that first kept her from attempting (N91)

She must always know what it is that she wants (N57)

And to not be **impatient** (N84)

Because God placed them along *her* path (N83)

At the spot where she *fell*, a *flower* was **born** (N12)

She didn't need to worry now (N40)

Because at a certain point of our lives, we **lose control** of what's
happening to us, and our lives become controlled by **fate** (N27)

But if she could, she'd write a **huge** encyclopedia just about the

words **luck** and **coincidence** (N68)

When we first begin **fighting** for our **dream**, we have no experience

and make **many** mistakes N(9)

However, the **secret** of life, though, is to **fall** seven times and to *get*

up eight times (N9)

The army is coming (N93)

But we have to **OVERCOME** the defeats - and we always do - so we

are filled by a **greater** sense of **euphoria** and **confidence** (N10)

Courage is the quality most essential to understanding the **Language**

of the World (N101)

She rose, and made her way back toward the *flower* (N92)

Making her *own* decisions (N36)

The girl and her **heart** had become friends, and neither was capable

now of **betraying** the other (N120)

The **heart** does what it *can* (N120)

But **you** must have no fear of **failure** (N91)

She thought of the **many** roads she had traveled, and of the *strange*

way God had chosen to show her her **treasure** (N144)

She thought it to be more *beautiful* than the sound of the **wind** in the
date palms (N89)

Life, it's **not** easy (N77)

But when you are *loved*, there's no need **at all** to understand what is

happening, because everything happens *within* you (N131)

Student Choice #1 Reflection

This is a piece that I did more recently and I think it is very me. I continued to look deeper into the meaning of the quote and tried being as specific as possible, but at a certain point, I just kept going without having to think of every little thing I was doing. Writing this piece really helped me show who I am and how I think. I was really proud of the way I expressed myself, then when I got one of my rare 4's, I became even more proud. So proud that I made my sister and mom read it. I think the way someone looks at life can be so life changing and it's amazing how uniquely everyone does look at their own lives. I felt very philosophical writing this piece which I hope I stay. There are so many details and things that can be missed when you only see the surface. I grew into something that doesn't do things by the book and instead takes things deeper and further. I used to write really formally and got frustrated when I didn't get a good grade because the teacher wanted to hear me (and I am nowhere near formal), but once I wrote like me, I got better grades, I enjoyed writing more, and I even found/learned more of me.

Alchemist Quote

What's a quote from Part One that stuck with you? Why does this quote feel significant to you? Be brief but specific. 12 point, double spaced, Times or Calibri, 400 words or less (excluding the quote).

There were multiple quotes that were said in this book and stood out to me, but the "...at a certain point of our lives, we lose control of what's happening to us, and our lives become controlled by fate," (Coelho, 27). This quote specifically has so much advice, knowledge, and confidence. The old man in the book said this as if he knew. He already experienced when he was in control of what he wanted then he lost control and fate took him on its own path.

I am a big believer in fate and the "everything happens for a reason" saying. I think it is a very positive way of looking at life and the obstacles that might come. We as humans tend to want to control things. What we do in our days, when we wake up, what kind of person we want to marry, what kind of life we want, and more. We are needy and will always want more and more. However, this quote is kind of contradicting the idea of being in control by saying it will eventually end up in fate's hands. At some point in our life, we most likely will not be able to control every detail of our life. We will get old and tired or too busy to remember what exactly we wanted and take control of getting that something we want. I don't consider fate a religion, belief, or spirit but more of something that is just there whether you like it or not. It will happen out of your control and maybe you won't even realize it.

We, from the day we are born to the senior year of high school and maybe even college, are taught to take control of what we want and we can achieve our dreams. However, at the end of the day, we must simply live life to the fullest and do what makes us happy at the moment

rather than adjust our life to fantasy because no one knows what tomorrow brings and maybe our dream will change. So, all that hard work and life adjusting you did to your first dream was for nothing because fate wanted you to change dreams and fate wants you on your toes. You just never know. Life is a journey.

Student Choice #2 Reflection

This piece is something that isn't only about me, but the world and just something that should and needs to be talked about. We watched a video during class and reflected. Just the fact that the speaker was an asian american made it feel so much closer to me and helped me connect and understand more. I realized I am lucky that I am half japanese and white because I may not get discriminated against, but I can be a voice for my community and for all people who need one. This journal was very to the point and helped me grow to understand how some people feel and how messed up it is. Equality is a right, not a choice.

Journal Entry - 8 September 2020

Date: 8 September 2020

Prompt: Who is the speaker? Who is the audience? What is the message? Who's voice is NOT being heard, or is missing?

The speaker is an asian american. Maybe an immigrant. He is a male and he is hurt. He is confused why he is being discriminated against. He is not equal to an average american. The audience is other asians. maybe even everyone as a whole. The audience is underprivileged people. The audience are people who feel the same way. The message the world is unfair. The world says that every race is equal, but it absolutely is not. The message is to let others know they are not alone and maybe even bring awareness to it. He was so passionate about every world he said. He spoke aggressively to make a difference between his jokes and his actual facts, problems, and stories. The voice that isn't being heard is the ones who can't speak up and are being discriminated against. Whats missing is everyones support to end discrimination. or at least try to. The asian american said what he did out of patio, frustration, and the bottom of his heart. He wants to bring awareness, share his experiences, make others feel not-so alone, and lastly, he wants this to end. nothing will change with hate for others, we need to start working together, not as each race, but as humans.

Experiences to Growth

High school was not one of my favorite experiences for many reasons, but all these reasons are what taught me certain lessons and allowed me to grow as a person. I feel like I matured a lot in high school and became more responsible. Academically, I learned time management, prioritizing my classes on what to finish and put more energy into, and etc. As an individual, I grew to find myself, go out of my comfort zone, try new things, and just be more adventurous to gain more experiences. I consider experiences power because experiences allow us to gain knowledge and knowledge is power.

One thing I am most proud of that I accomplished in high school was of course passing my classes, but more-so, not giving up. I think I tend to give up very easily. For example, I was put into swim lessons twice. The first time because my friend was in it, but when she moved, I quit. Then I went again for some reason, and I quit again because I couldn't pass level 4. Even with my cheerleading career, I wanted to quit many many times. I always feel like I was so useless, I did not contribute anything to the team, I wasn't learning anything new, and it was just added drama and stress. What kept me from quitting was my passion for it. I even became captain and being captain was that one thing that really motivated me to keep going. People saw me as a leader and looked up to me enough to vote me as captain and that really made me feel better. I may not have been able to contribute to the team physically, but I could mentally. That is something I hold pride in. There were plenty of girls who were stronger and could lift people higher and better than me, girls who were more advanced with tumbling, and girls who had more experience than me, but my team picked me. Not for my skills, but for my motivation, my attitude, and the way I enjoyed helping others and making them feel welcomed. I learned that drama is hard to deal with but it's all worth it because when we won and took the banner home,

we never got more along. On the mat at the final competition, we knew we all had one thing in common and that was to win, and so we did.

Another thing that I hold pride in is my move to Hawaii. Something I never thought would become a reality until college was moving away from home. My parents always talked about it and dreamed of living here, but I never thought it would actually happen until I went to college. My life was so perfect before I left (other than the fact that I knew I was leaving) and it was so fun. I don't think I've ever been happier. Japan truly made me the happiest. However, I am so grateful that I got the chance to live in a new country, environment, and culture. It taught me to be respectful even if they aren't like me, it taught me to get out of my comfort zone, it taught me to be happy for me. At first, I was intimidated to be here and meet locals because of the stereotype that all locals don't really like white people, and I happen to be half white. However, I wanted to prove to them that I am not a bad person, I do not want tension between me and others and I do not want possible good friendships to be lost because nobody gave them a chance to express themselves. I feel like that is one big motivator to be more social. I also learned that not everyone and everything is scary. I used to think everyone was scary and I am never safe, but I learned (and still am) that something just looks scary but is sweet, funny, and the nicest people you'll meet. One thing you think you know but don't really know until you experience and see it is how important family is in the culture here. I am so grateful to have seen happy families that are there for each other no matter what and are so loyal to each other. Some may not even be related by blood, but they are by soul. My family is like a family but we don't get along as well as the ones here and we aren't as close. I used to get sad about that, but it only motivates me to help my family become one or create one for myself.

High school was a rollercoaster. I was happy, sad, mad, stressed, and now grateful. I am grateful for all those good and bad experiences, all the teachers that made me feel so safe to ask questions and learn. I am grateful for all my friends, acquaintances, and just random people that I encountered. Whether it taught me to not judge a book by its cover, don't be scared to learn, be caring and understanding, or even to choose me, my health, and my happiness over someone who doesn't really care and makes me feel the opposite. I grew to what I consider is the most I could've grown in my high school years. Though I didn't really enjoy high school, I will always be proud of my accomplishments because even my bad grades taught me to do better or maybe that the subject isn't for me. High school may never be my favorite, but it still allowed so much growth as a person mentally, physically, and academically. My grades only got better and I only learned more. The skill of trying new things and not giving up, or observing others and your surroundings will only help you in the future. Whether the future is going to trade school, college, or no school, you can still use this skill. You can try surfing if you never have, you can move out of the island and learn to adapt to a new environment, you can do whatever you want and use those skills some-way and some-how. I can tell you Japan's culture is much different from Hawaii and there is nothing wrong with either of them.

Senior Portfolio Adult Review Sheet

Name of student: Samantha Kocher

Name of adult: Hugh Ishikawa

Relationship to student: Teacher

Date student gave it to you: April 29, 2021

Dear Reader: Thank you for investing your time in reading this portfolio. Students reveal so much of themselves in their writing, often without realizing it. By sharing their work with you, this student is giving you insight into his/her mind and heart. Please share a few comments to the writer about what you observed or experienced by reading these pieces. Thank you for supporting this student's educational journey.

Comments:

I enjoyed reading the pieces of work that you submitted for your portfolio. As I was reading the essays, I could hear you talking to me or telling me a story in a similar way to what you wrote. Your voice was strong and full of emotion, so I knew that you poured your heart into what you wrote. It is not easy to always convey what you are feeling into your writing and to do it well is a skill in itself. The fact that I could imagine you saying this to me, showed me that you pulled it off and I could feel the strength in your words. Please continue writing and grow into an even better writer in the future.

I am honored that you selected me to read your Senior Portfolio. I wish I could have read your essay in Japanese too. My kanji skills are non-existent, so maybe you can translate it for me one day. Maybe if you wrote it all in hiragana, then there is a chance that I could understand it too.

Thank you.....ishikawa

Senior Portfolio Rubric, SY 20-21

Criteria	4	3	2
Completeness: Cover sheet Table of contents 9 entries 8 individual reflections Adult Review Sheet Rubric (at the end)		Includes <u>all</u> required pieces	
Quality: Title page/Reflection		Generally explains the purpose of the assignments and adequately describes the important features of the pieces. Assessments are adequate.	
Year End Reflection (written in class)		Demonstrates some insight into the writers abilities and growth over the years. Adequately explains how particular assignments, skills or activities led to the writers overall performance.	
Organization: Overall Appearance		Generally neat, clean and organized. All pieces are consistent in format (MLA).	

Teacher Comments: