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### Writing My Story

Written language is the backbone of our society, the same can be said about our lives as individuals. For me, writing takes on many shapes throughout my daily routine, and every part is essential. In computer science my writing often is forced to adapt to the medium that I am working with. In class, my writing style is more structured and rigid, matching the technological environment that I am writing in. My abilities to write are greatly impacted by my love of reading, allowing me to view my work from a reader's perspective. The way I was taught to write definitely impacted how I viewed writing as a whole, both improving and restricting how I write today. Writing is a way for me to express myself through text, giving the reader a glimpse into my thoughts, feelings and experiences. Hopefully throughout this article you will catch a glimpse of how I write, and why it's so important to me.

Technology has played a part in my writing long before even my first essay. My first memory of writing was creating concise descriptions for a presentation. This has led to my writing excelling when it comes to argumentative and analytical essays. My writing process is nearly an exact translation to my coding process: creating an idea of what I want the final product to look like, developing a rough version of the product, testing the product (Having my peers review my work), and finally polishing the final product. Throughout my daily life I use this writing style when developing websites, programming often requires smaller sentence structures,

leading to a somewhat choppy writing style. This process is the backbone to my writing, coding, and learning.

When it comes to understanding the tone of my writing, Grammarly was likely my first teacher. Having a virtual assistant constantly critiquing and reviewing my writing helped me to improve how my work was perceived by the intended reader. I learned to be more concise, descriptive, and efficient as a writer. My writing tends to be highly structured, owing to the somewhat restrictive nature of writing on a computer. Typing an essay can feel somewhat robotic; the click of the keys are a stark contrast to the smooth, flowing writing of a pencil and paper. At the same time, the efficiency and ability to view my own mistakes so easily speaks to my style of writing. I have no intention to conform to the limitations of technology though, and I think that will continue to inspire my writing in the future.

Reading is definitely one of the most important things in my life. For as long as I can remember I've had a book in my hand, taking me on a journey to places and times I would never experience without them. Reading has played a key part in how I learned to write and how I write to this day. When I was learning to write, I often found myself thinking about what my favorite authors would do. "How would they finish this paragraph?" "Is this sentence cohesive with the rest of my essay?" These questions would steer my writing back on track, allowing me to view my work from the reader's perspective. I would think of how the books I enjoyed were written; how they used quotes and details to enhance the reading experience.

Being an avid reader, understanding what an author is trying to convey comes to me quite naturally. This proves incredibly useful when developing an essay discussing another author's work. Books inspired me to express myself through my writing, conveying my emotions with every click of the keys. I want to someday create something that inspires people like that, a story

or article that they enjoy so much they want to write too. Every book, every genre, fact or fiction, they each added something to the way I learned to write. My writing is an amalgamation of the books I love so dearly, instilling my love of reading in every word.

Writing has always been a skill I've been confident in. The way I was taught to write was structured and rigid, allowing me to develop my writing for the first time. I was taught to read the prompt carefully before anything else. I was then instructed to read through the article or sources we would be writing about and take notes or mark sections relevant to my essay. I was then told to make a basic essay structure using three key ideas for each of the body paragraphs. The introductory paragraph had to contain a statement introducing each of these paragraphs and topics that would be covered later in the essay. Next I would create my rough draft of the essay using the sources and notes I had taken previously to support my work. The next step was to have my essay proofread by two classmates, having them leave notes and underlining any errors in my writing. Finally I would take everything and create a final draft, I would proofread it twice more and finish the essay.

The issue with this incredibly structured way of writing is that it relies heavily on the prompt being centered around an article. Narrative essays like this where all of the information is coming from my memory tend to be much harder to develop because of this. The writing structure was made for statewide testing of our reading and writing abilities, not necessarily to help us improve as we move past them. Due to this, I now feel somewhat trapped in this way of writing, it's the only way I know how to but it feels quite constraining. My goal in the future is to develop my writing style in such a way that it can adapt to every type of essay.

My favorite memory of writing was in the freshmen year of highschool. I entered a short story contest for the newspaper in which the participants could be from highschool or college.

The prompt was to create a horror story in 500 words or less for Halloween with the winner's stories printed on the front page. Initially I didn't intend to give the story much thought because it was something our teacher made us do, but as I started working on it I found myself enjoying the process. I challenged myself by writing the entire story in a writing scheme, making sure to use exactly 500 words. I don't remember much about the contents of the story itself, I remember winning 2nd place in the competition and the feeling of pride in my own writing. In the future I want to write more stories like that, stories that captivate and amaze through fiction and fantasy.

While factual essays can be useful in both professional and academic environments, the style does little when it comes to moving people's hearts on a subject I care about. I want my writing to speak to people in a way that facts and statistics can't, to create something that people actually enjoy reading. I read thousands of articles a year, I couldn't tell you anything about them if I tried. But a good story? I could talk for hours about the interesting way they described every tiny detail. I want to write something like that, something that people will remember and cherish.

Writing is one of the most important things in my life, it's a way for me to express my thoughts and feelings through text. In a digital era where everything is about fast-paced information and structure, sometimes it's easy to lose sight of how important writing can be. My love of technology pushes me to write in new ways in order to adapt to this new era, building upon my skills and understanding. My love of reading drives me to be a better writer, inspiring people with my work like the stories I love inspire me. I have no intentions to let my writing abilities slip, and while I might feel stuck in my current writing structure I intend to grow out of it as time goes on. This is how I feel about writing, why I write, and what my goals are for my writing in the future.