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English 101

Mr. Fisher

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History of Writing

Writing has always been a major part of my life in school. My parents took my writing and language education heavily into account when looking for schools. The main reason I’ve been in private school my whole life can be attributed to the original idea of receiving the best education possible in the language arts. I’ve had multiple scenarios, classes, and teachers that have left mark able milestones in my writing career, but it will be easier to segment them down to four periods. My experiences in writing at home, in grade-school, in middle school and in high school have all developed my writing ability to its performance today.

As part of the beginning of my education, my parents decided to try teaching me from home. I was one of those hyperactive cant-stay-still-in-his-chair type of kids so my parents had to think outside of the box when it came to teaching me, but they knew that I loved to draw as a kid. They took advantage of this, allowing me to draw an object, and then they would place the name of the object above it. This worked out great for teaching me the alphabet, as I learned from physically drawing the letters themselves. This simple, yet intuitive process paved the way for priming my education in grade school.

My parents decided to put me in St. Marks Catholic School, a small private school with only 15 kids per class. This small class sample made it perfect for the teacher to interact one-on-one with each student, making sure they didn’t fall behind. I attribute this greatly to my success in grammar, an area that I struggled with throughout third grade. I had a 6th grade teacher named Ms. Monroe who left a noticeable impact on my writing ability. The first day of class, she told us to write down a concept for a 4 page paper. Something that stood out in our lives, that we were passionate about. She repeated this project 4 times throughout the year. At a young age, writing about topics that interest you rather than writing about a boring prompt makes a major difference in a child’s willingness and intent to succeed in learning the material. It almost gave the sense of a creative bubble, where one can create a project at their own desire about whatever they’d like and receive praise for it in the form of a grade. This almost felt like it caused me to associate my passion with my writing ability, wanting to improve it so as to indirectly reach my other goals in life. Ms. Monroe single handed gave me the tools to succeed in information gathering and displaying thought processes in cohesive writing projects.

Throughout High School I was always placed in the advanced English classes, even being put in college AP classes my junior and senior year. The teachers were top notch, passionate, and prominent figures within the Washington state teaching community. Being given the opportunity to work with these figure definitely showed me my strengths and weaknesses in my writing capabilities. The one form of writing that improved the most for me would have to be informational essays. Writing about a prompt related to science or history, and efficiently gathering information without accidently plagiarizing. This improved my ability to the point that I wrote my 10 page senior year paper on mitosis and cell permeability, going in depth with citing over 15 college scholarly sources. My high school classes also honed another one of my writing abilities. From sophomore year forward, every month my English class would have a timed in class write about a book that we had previously read in the class. It forced the student to bring rhetorical thinking into a stressful environment and turn it into a well thought essay with both sides of the argument being voiced. Ill admit, my first couple of in class essays, I couldn’t grasp the concept of providing both sides of the argument. I went so far as to practice my failed prompts at home, bringing them into the teacher for peer editing just so I could master the style. The fact that the teachers cared enough to look over outside of curriculum work allowed me to advance my writing beyond what a public school may have provided me. It gave me the opportunity and ability to pass high school and move onto college with the confidence of knowing that I’d be prepared for any writing assignment.

Private school has blessed me with learning opportunities that I sometimes take for granted. It has allowed met to hone and perfect my writing abilities for future application in a variety of settings. This has been my history with writing, and it will be a blast adding more to it.