

English 111 was a new experience to English for me. I enrolled in this class because it was a requirement and at the time was nothing more than that. I sat in class on the first day preparing to do all of the work, give it my best, and to open my mind to anything new that came at me. My whole life I disliked English of all subjects the most. As the weeks went by and the assignments were done my mind grew to like the difference between previous high school English's and college English. In college my mind was challenged to think and see ambiguously rather than a one track train, like in high school. I liked how much I grew from this course and the new ideas and things I learned and will take with me the rest of my life.

One discussion I really liked in this class was for the analysis project. In class we talked about the song "Smells like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana. I was very familiar with this song prior to talking about it in class, but this assignment gave me a completely different view of this song. We discussed the music and the mood it sets. We also went over the confusion of the lyrics and the meaning of the song. The meaning ended up describing the mood swings, and anger wrapped up in teenagers. If I could put the Analysis discussion into Taxonomy of significant learning level, it would be the caring level. I would choose this level because it has changed a part of my life. Now when I listen to not only this song but any song I've heard since this discussion, I get new meanings from every lyric I hear and it's all because of learning how to analyze in class.

The one reading I had the most interest in that we had in class was "how to shoot an elephant" by George Orwell. The story was George a police officer in a different country. He was constantly being persecuted by the native people and had the fact he was a police officer just made the target on his back even bigger. To simplify the story he was put in a situation where he could fit in with the people and looked upon as a hero if he shot a rampaging elephant. Or he could have waited until the owner showed up because the elephant seemed to calm down, and not pull the trigger. This story

this class because I know the importance of writing in life and with these improvements I am much more confident as a writer then before.

The final activity that was significant for me in this class was our class discussion on things that are taboo. Not only was I able to be with my three good friends during this, but I also got to share some good laughs with all of the class and still take away knowledge from the discussion. And to me this was the epitome of this class, an amusing, educational, yet serious use of time that benefited everyone. We learned how to learn when we sorted out all of our ideas into categories and sub-categories, integrated other peoples ideas and beliefs into one giant melting pot, and we applied all of it into a meaningful discussion. This class was so effective from so man different angles and you never knew where a discussion would lead to, but you always knew at the end of the day you would learn something new.

The fact that this class was mainly writing based was a relief to me because I thought I was a decent writer already. Little did I know how much I would learn from this class to make me an even more proficient writer. When it comes to recognizing my main strength and weakness after going through this class I would have to say they are the same thing, and that is getting my point across. As I start my paper I write all my ideas down and have all these wonderful ideas to incorporate into my writing, and I get so caught up in them I do not give the reader a clear main idea. As you have expressed and as I feel, I do a nice job of exploring lots of ideas and am not afraid to go after the big question. But at the same time I notice that after looking back on my papers my intro never received the type of grade my body paragraphs did and that is where you have to give a clear, precise thesis statement. So to try and correct that I am going to start by sitting down and hashing out a main idea and thesis statement before I start writing down anything else, and hopefully my progress as a writer will continue because of it.

difficult so I pushed it aside and waited for the weekend to do it. As for other assignments in other classes, I pushed those to the side as well. Before I noticed I had a mountain of work, work that was not going to get done in a day. I was frustrated and disappointed that I had stacks of work waiting to be done in so little time. After this I changed my view on time management. I manage my time and do work in between classes or at night. It feels so much better, because I do not have to do everything all at once! It has made me more organized for my classes, keeping my grades at an all time high and my stress at an all time low. This new found knowledge of time management is really going to help pursue my major in the medical field, because medicine is a delicate subject that takes up a lot of your life. For me to think about putting it away until the weekend is out of the question, but to separate everything out during the week will really help strive for my success!

It is not always what the course subject is about that you apply to the real world, but the way you learned the subject can also be applied to the real world. Not all of us are going to use calculus after taking the class, but what we are going to use is the thinking process we learned for calculus. In my college composition class we are always discussing new pieces of writing. Some people see it as just chatting about what the story is about, but it is so much more! We can converse about what the story portrays, hints, and foreshadows through evidence or plane instinct. We can really go beyond the text when discussing, because of the many different angles we get from the variety of students in the class. I really enjoy these class discussions, because it really heightens your thinking process and allows you to see past the paper. To be able to apply this in depth thinking has greatly benefited me in not just this class, but many others. It is helpful in reading literature for the purpose that I can grasp deeper meaning of the text. It is quite effective for math, because it helps me process problems with a little more detail, giving me a

correct answer. Science really benefits from this immensely, because it helps me get a better access to the information with great understanding. My new critical thinking skills are going to be a key importance to my success in English 112, because my instructors will always be demanding of something more than just a summary and I believe I have to offer that demand now!

Everyone is different in their own unique way. Kind of like a rainbow, there are many different colors all with their unique look and style. We all see life through different eyes, so no two are alike, making us one of a kind. Why is it so nice to be diverse? It is nice, because we can see and talk with each diverse person and gain new friendship and new views. Coming from a Chinese family, I spoke Chinese, ate Chinese food, and practiced many Chinese traditions. So when I turned six years of age and entered my first year of elementary school I was shocked! I saw many different people, with different looks and different personalities. At the time it was mind blowing to see a white skinned, blonde hair person as crazy as that sounds. When it comes to ethnicities, we act differently and incorporate many different practices in our lives, which made me skeptical to engage in a conversation with other people. After a couple weeks of school I saw was able to make many new friends and accept their views as they would accept mine. I learned new cultural differences and ate a wide variety of new foods! In my freshmen year of high school I got to try hot dogs from one of my American friends' family. When I ate my first one, I was hooked! I fell in love with hot dogs and probably ate too many of them that night, but to find such a new food of such caliber really inspired me to share it with my family members too! I shared it with my family during celebrations and they love it to! This integration of new cultures has given me much more acceptance to new people and ideas held by those people. Of course I hold my own to myself, but now I am much more accepting of others than I use to. This

Semester in a Nut Shell

Looking back on this first semester of my college life, I think about how I have improved as a person and a reader. I like to think that I have improved in a lot of areas. First off, I know I have become a better reader and I far more understand what I am reading due to this class. When I read the Water for Elephants book I really start thinking about how I would feel in this situation. How would I feel if Jacob were me? This class has made me think more about what I am reading and how am I understanding what I am taking in and what am I comprehending and what I am not comprehending. I start to look back on how I read when I first started the book and how I really hated having to read a book. The first few chapters of the book were hard for me to read. I had to fight to read them and even after I did I was still upset at myself for having to read them. This makes no sense now. Towards the end of the semester and end of the book I was enjoying what I was reading and enjoying coming to class a lot more.

Thinking about how I read a book has changed a lot for me. I now really think about what I am reading and how does everything mesh together for a book. Listening to how you told us to think about and comprehend a book has made me a better reader I think. I take more time to read now, and think a lot more about what I am reading. The book was actually becoming fun for me. This has never happened before in my life. Reading was becoming better than it had ever been before.

My attitudes and thinking towards this class were very dark at the beginning of the semester. I hated getting up early, reading books, reading anything really. Then as the days went on and on and you made us interact with each other and talk about what we had read, it became fun and more interesting

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The Road to Reading

At the beginning of this class I could read a novel that had a story line. When it came to reading articles or textbooks, I would just read them to get done and over with. I never really understood what the author was trying to explain or trying to get across. I believe this class has given me new tools to use when it comes to reading articles and textbooks, and plus has given me some new ways to get the most out of reading a novel with a story line.

As a reader I believe I have started to change my old ways of thinking. I would get nervous when I had to read out loud to a group of people. I still get nervous but I don't think it's because of reading in front of people, I think it is because I am not always sure on what I am reading. I have started to use my prior knowledge or schema when it comes to those kinds of situations. Before knowing these different ways of capturing what a chapter, article, or even a web page was saying, I would just read and hope to know or even understand what was being said. That is just one way how I have changed my outlook as a reader.

Another way I have changed as a reader is by using pre-reading, during reading and after reading strategies. By incorporating these different strategies while I read, I am allowing myself to get more from the reading. I am visualizing, asking questions, setting goals, making connections, learning how to use new words and etc. There are so many ways to assist you