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I often found myself witting essays were I didn’t even know what I was talking about. I always thought of my essays as a way to please my teachers for a grade and not really to express what I truly wanted to say. Throughout high school I have to admit that I was very afraid to be the only one lost in this writing world but now that I’m in college I don’t feel alone anymore. I can see how we all struggle in writing in many different ways. I can pretty much say all my life I was a writing machine who didn’t have a voice, but it’s about time I get out of this trapping web. I call a trapping web all the vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, witting techniques, etc. I know that there’s many good ways to say use them but I just can’t find the right one. Trying to please others makes me feel robotic and like my opinion on the topic doesn’t matter. I know that finding a new way to write will be challenging in college but also at the end will be rewarding.

I know I’m capable of being a good writer, but feelings and emotions always take over me and then I just can’t write. I tend to stop every minute and look at the screen to check for errors to correct them. After many years of doing it I now feel like a robot. In the middle of a paragraph I stop to think and wonder if my grammar is correct or if my writing even makes sense, in fact I’m doing it right now. I always loved to write letters to my friends and family because they wouldn’t check if the paragraph made sense or even if I had spelling errors, they would just look at the feelings and effort I had put on it, but now I’m even afraid to think about writing a letter. Deep inside I would always be in class with bad and negative mixed emotions taking over me and I know I would always blush. Every time I would turn in my essay to the teacher I would start shaking and I would start feeling embarrassed and ashamed of myself because of my essay. I always wanted to get a free topic and write whatever I wanted but now in college I have that freedom and I don’t know how to use it. I feel like I’m trapped on the freedom of writing and in order to free myself from it I have to explore it but I’m scare to do so.

In high school my teachers forced me and expected me to write a strong introduction before I started my essay, but its hard and almost impossible to have good ideas when you’re barely going to start a paper. We can add that not having enough knowledge about the topic always makes things worse for any writer. This pressure would be very stressful and all I wanted was to be done with that darn essay! At the end when my essay was finally done I always felt really depressed because even though the paper was accomplished I never knew what my paper was about. I would remember doing some research, but not as much because obviously I couldn’t remember anything. I often noticed that getting to my point was hard. I would take forever to find it which made me go in circles before getting to it. This made me addicted to commas because they always helped me add more ideas and of course would lead me to the main point of the essay.

For all essays I had to get a grade, having that letter weight on my shoulders wasn’t easy because I always like to be on the top students, which means I didn’t want to be the *stupid writer* from the class. I often forced myself to do well on essays because I wanted to keep my straight “A” G.P.A and it was a goal I had set for myself. I have to admit that when I got my essays back and I saw the big grade on the top of the page with red ink, I would smile because I always got an A or B, but if I read through my essay it would not make any sense to me. My essay was a puzzle that I had created on my own without even knowing it. I would just see big vocabulary words that probably gave me a good grade. Most of the time I saw how my paper had some marks with red ink pointing out how my sentence was weak or overloaded, but I never read something constructive that would help me make my piece better. Their critique on my paper wouldn’t help much without any examples, making me feel stupid wouldn’t push me to something positive, if anything they would discourage me from writing.

This summer when I talked to my High School classmates I found out that I was the only one with this type of class. I find that very interesting and in a way kind of sarcastic because I had the highest grade in my class and yet I’m the one taking remedial English class. I’m not saying that is bad but it just doesn’t make any sense that I’m not ready for a regular English class when my teacher from High School said I was, or was she lying to me? It makes me think that if I would have done poorly in her class maybe I would have been ready for a college English course. Now if I look at it from a different point of view, I’m actually glad to have this class because I’m learning how to write better and without being scared. I’m starting to find my own voice in my own way to write a paper without using any teacher’s technique.

Being a good writer doesn’t mean that you have to get it right the first time, being a good writer is about finding the way to express yourself and feel comfortable with what you write. I now understand that to make a good essay I must put all my thoughts together on a piece of paper, doing free writing helps, and from there develop new ideas and then paste it together. Making a big mess of thoughts and ideas will lead to a good essay, even if you don’t think it will. Writing isn’t about pleasing others; it’s about pleasing yourself and feeling proud of what you wrote. Not having fear of what others think because you know your writing is legit and will leave a good impression of you to the reader.