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My Journey of Learning to Enjoy Writing

By Katherine Bytwerk

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Whenever I was presented with having to write a paper or prompt, I never really got very excited about it. I think many other people may feel the same way. To be inspired to write usually you have to have a good teacher or someone who inspired you. In my opinion, this is true to me because I never really enjoyed writing until I was inspired by a few important people in my life. You may find that person or thing that inspires you to write but still may not enjoy it a whole lot. I know that in my life, I have found several people I look up to as mentors in my life and inspirations for writing.

Back in second grade in language class, my teacher presented to us with a project and a writing prompt to follow it. We took a picture of a pet we had then wrote about the animal and how important they are to us. Now when you are in second grade they do not expect much of you at that age. But the way we saw it, it was a big project and any kid that gets to write about their pet is going to be very excited and not dread it much at all. So I ran up the driveway after getting off the bus that afternoon and told mom we had to take a picture of our dog and I. She asked me why and I explained. She was more than happy to help. After taking the picture, I wrote to the best of my second grade ability about how great of a dog and loving animal she is. To this day I would still enjoy doing that very thing.

Few years go by and I continue to get papers to write, essays and many other projects or homework that involved writing. Seventh grade rolls around and I lucked out with the best teacher I have ever had. Her name was Mrs. Keener. Mrs. Keener was not only a fun teacher who gave fun assignments but she tried her absolute best to connect with each student. When a teacher connects with a student, it makes going to that class a little less dreadful. She would assign papers and would inspire us to do well and try our best. One of my favorite assignments that inspired me the most was when we wrote about the people in our life that were very important to us. When writing about people important to you, it makes writing not so bad. Someone who has told you, you can do great if you try, and who has given endless amounts of kind words to, makes a person want to try very hard for that other person just to prove exactly that. So, I did. I tried my best and earned so much respect from that teacher. To this day she has always been such an inspiration to me and keeps me wanting me to push myself further. She is such a great mentor and respected by so many people. My seventh grade year ends but we still to this day stay in touch.

Each year after, I always would think about what she had said and how we need to push ourselves to strive for greatness. So I did. Granted, sometimes I would not want to push myself as hard that day, but I kept in mind that to go further in life, you have to put in the effort. When it is finally my senior year of highschool, I was stuck with a teacher who at the time I thought was the worst. Turns out she was not the worst. This teacher also had the same concept in mind as Mrs. Keener. She wanted us to do better and try our best no matter what. She may have had a different way of showing it, but overall she had good intentions for each of her students. Once again, knowing your teacher has faith in you and believes you can do better always makes for a better student in class.

Overtime, I proved to myself that I did not only strive to be better in class but overall in life. My father taught a college writing class at University of Toledo with his degree in english. You may wonder why that matters, but having someone close to you who can help correct you and improve your writing can be extremely helpful. When I would bring things home for him to look at he would help me correct my mistakes, tell me where I could improve and most importantly, tell me that if I try for more it counts for more. I never really understood what that meant until later in life. The point he was trying to get across was once again similar to what I have heard before. When you try harder it is noticeable and when it is noticed it is taken into consideration. So, I did exactly that and tried for more each time and sure enough, it counted for more.

I may not have always liked to write all the time but when someone becomes inspired, it can create so much more enthusiasm and creativity. I relate what each of these people said to me in my daily life. When you bring someone down, you are bringing so many aspects of their life down as well. If those people did not believe in me or inspire me, I would not be sitting in my dorm at Bowling Green State University in Falcon Heights at 10:57 writing this paper or taking this class.

In this class, I intend to learn so many more things about writing that I have never known before. I have always wrote papers and received pretty good grades on papers, but then again, they were grade school and high school level papers graded by teachers who are required to grade knowing we only have so much previous skill. While in the class, I also hope to be able to write more in an assignment rather than just writing in “fillers” to take up space and reach the full length of the paper. This will make the papers more interesting to the reader and better to write. Overall, I am very excited for the class and learning new things about writing and how to write.