

PORTFOLIO METACOGNITIVE ESSAY

by Jacob Butlett

The journey to the end of my semester draws near, and here you, my humble reader, are reading my PORTFOLIO METACOGNITIVE ESSAY. I hope you have learned something about me—if not from me, then from my tools: a compass, a camera, a specimen jar, a magnifying glass, and binoculars. Regardless if you are reading this during the month of April of 2013 or months or years following this semester, take this with you when you continue your adventure through life's endeavors: try to strip your ignorance aside, and let continual disillusionment help reshape your world; in other words, never stopping learning. Without ignorance, no one would learn. With your own tools resting by your side, you have the courage, skill, and ardor to conquer anything. So before you close my portfolio and continue your grand trek toward the horizon of your destiny, listen to what I have learned during this semester, and take whatever you wish from it. Be enlightened. Be inspired. Be perfunctory. Regardless of which one(s) you choose, follow your heart, and decide.

Before stepping into my Composition II classroom, thus starting an odyssey of writing and self-discovery, I knew I would learn, but the great amount of knowledge I gained surprised me. I valued emphatic verbs before the semester commenced, but I also valued weak verbs, too. Though weak verbs hold some significance in writing, using empowered verbs adds life to prose that weak verbs cannot offer. This semester, Mr. Brimeyer retaught me that, and I greatly appreciate it. A talented, funny man with a heart of passion and sincerity, Mr. Brimeyer also reinforced the principle of keeping writing short, or keeping conciseness in writing / editing. If Mr. Brimeyer teaches you, let his knowledge adorn your mind like flowers of profound thought. When I become an English professor, I will try to retain the same ethics Mr. Brimeyer used in

class. So, my humble reader, try not to learn strictly from my side but from all sides of people's lives—including Mr. Brimeyer's. You might learn something novel.

One time, I was waiting for class to start when Mr. Brimeyer called me out into the hallway. I thought he was going to talk to me about my compare-contrast essay, "Kansas and 'Somewhere over the Rainbow'" (as it was entitled then), and my conjecture was proven true. In the hallway, Mr. Brimeyer commended me for writing the essay well. I blushed, and I accepted the 95 out of 100 score. Mr. Brimeyer accorded me with praise, and it raised my confidence and spirits. If he teaches you, appreciate his praise because liker than not, he gives praise in earnest. As long as you accomplish your work with heart and determination, he will reward you. I liked his encouragement, and if he teaches you, then I hope you love it, too.

I also liked this semester because it provided me the opportunity to put my heart on the page. I wrote many essays that exemplified my life. My diagnostic essay talked about my goals; my definition essay talked about how perseverance contributed to my life; my compare-contrast essay talked about my favorite movie, *The Wizard of Oz*; my critical analysis showed my ability to be critical and affable when critiquing another's work; and my research paper reflected my views about the importance of helping the majorly depressed achieve happiness. Based solely on my works, my life may not be as enthralling as yours, but I cherish my life because it has provided me numerous opportunities to view the world from my perspective, a never-ending view that my writings, especially, have helped transfigure. More challenges lie ahead of me, but the self-discovery I found through my Composition II writings will help me overcome them.

I also appreciated the opportunity to learn more about APA style citation. Only one of my high school teachers taught me about formally citing work in research papers (I believe in MLA style), but I disliked the disorganized, vague lessons. Learning and practicing APA style during

this Composition II class will benefit me because I can use this new knowledge for my future classes. Learning either APA or MLA style can benefit you, too (assuming if you desire to continue your college schooling). Whenever I need to refer to proper citation rules in the future, I'll access my copy of *You've Gotta Have Heart—in Your Writing*, which I will put along my other writing and reference books at home.

I also enjoyed writing certain parts of my portfolio papers. These parts encompass wisdom that I hope my readers (you, in this case) admire and learn from. As for you, my humble reader, read the following excerpts:

* Without perseverance, I would lack the interest to accomplish anything, and I would, more likely than not, end up sprawling on the ground of defeat. As I stalk through life, perseverance will assist me in becoming a better person. I must, above all else, continue *to keep moving forward*. To do this, I must never give up, and I must always believe in myself. (from “Perseverance: A Passion to Keep Moving Forward”)

* Though Oz exhibited more grandeur than Kansas in many ways, I still adore the movie from beginning to end. *The Wizard of Oz* has stood the test of time, and though I might yearn to escape into the wonder of Oz, my place is in reality alongside my family. The film taught me, as stated by Dorothy at the end of the movie, “There’s no place like home.” (from “The Amazing World of Oz”)

* A light exists within every human being. Comprised of bliss and wonder, this light scintillates from people’s hearts and allows people to see the beauty of the world—its vermillion sunsets, its violet twilights, and its evergreen fields, just to name a few. As long as this light remains kindled, any human being bears the strength and the heart to conquer any enterprise. The *possible* transfigures today’s dreams, hopes, and myths into

tomorrow's reality. The *impossible* limits progress and precludes the world from embracing a new, brighter future. (from "Trapped in Corners of Oblivion: Assistance for the Majorly Depressed")

You already perused these while you were reading my papers, but what did you learn from them (if anything)? I supply why they provide significance to me in the actual texts, but how can you relate to me? When you begin or continue to learn from others, then you begin or continue to learn things about yourself.

I learned a lot throughout this semester, and I hope you have learned at least one thing from me. You may enjoy this semester of Composition II if you follow your instructor's directions and complete the homework. As for my papers, all the work circled around my passions and interests, which enhanced the voice inside the essays. Write with your voice, then your papers will contain pieces of you. Also, to discover your true voice, never stop learning. Through my work in Composition II, I learned more about my ideals about the future. What will you learn? What new or familiar knowledge will you obtain through your papers? You never know until you begin writing.