

The Person Behind the Writing

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If I were questioned years ago whether I considered myself a writer, most likely I would have stated that I was not a writer. I viewed writing as a task, and it wasn't something that came easily to me. However, today, I see writing in a different way. Writing allows me to share my thoughts and feelings with others, to think critically about my own experiences, and to be able effectively convey my thoughts. My name is Sofia Jaramillo Chavez; I am pursuing an Industrial Engineering major at the University of Central Florida. In addition to my major, I am also in the process of completing a minor in Aerospace studies through Air Force ROTC. Learning English, my educational journey and personal goals have greatly influenced who I am as a writer.

One of the biggest influences on who I am today as a writer is my background. Growing up bilingual has allowed me to understand how important communication can be. My experience with both Spanish and English have made me more aware of how language can impact how people express themselves and connect with others. These experiences taught me that communication is not always easy and it takes patience and practice most of the time. Looking back now, I think these experiences helped shape how I approach writing today. They taught me to pay attention to clarity and make sure what I want to say is clearly understood by my audience.

Throughout this semester, I learned that when you have your thoughts organized, you will be more likely to write with confidence. When you plan out your ideas and think about what connects to each other, it can help you stay on track and can develop your writing. I try to think about all the ways that my ideas connect before I start writing. This way I know where to go from there. I believe organization is very important because if you take the time to organize your ideas, then your reader should be able to follow along easily.

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At the start of ENC1101, I had two major goals for myself. The first objective that I wanted to work towards was improving my confidence as a writer. My second goal was to be able to better organize my ideas when I write. I think that I accomplished these two objectives throughout the course. Essay 1 provided an opportunity for me to reflect on my own life experiences. For essay 2, I needed to analyze the use of rhetorical devices in a short video and explain why the speaker used certain persuasion techniques. Each assignment required a type of writing that was new to me, however, they each allowed me to grow in a different way. As I went through the process of revising, reviewing drafts of my classmates, and reflecting on my writing experience, I felt more comfortable expressing my thoughts and providing support for those thoughts using evidence. Although I recognize these are areas where I still need improvement. Today, I am much more confident about my ability to express myself in writing than at the beginning of this class.

My process of creating starts with planning. I prefer to take some initial notes as well as develop an overall idea about how I will lay out my writing. Most of the time, I come up with an overall outline mentally so I can determine what I would like to achieve for each paragraph. Once I feel comfortable with the plan, the process becomes a lot less difficult. After completing the first draft, I go through it again and review it multiple times. Most of the time, I come up with an overall outline mentally so I can determine what I would like to achieve for each paragraph. Once I feel comfortable with the plan, writing is a lot less difficult. After completing the first draft, I go through it again and review it multiple times. I look for areas where I can improve the flow of my ideas from one paragraph to another. The way I complete the task may vary based on the type of essay. With personal essays, I spend more time thinking about experiences and decide which details will help me to better convey my message. When I am doing an analytical essay, I

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tend to spend a great deal of time gathering all the data and putting it in order before beginning to write.

A large part of what I write is academic writing which includes essays, discussions posts, self-reflections, and other types of class work. These writing techniques have taught me how to organize ideas, support my thoughts, and address different audiences. Writing has allowed me to reflect deeper into my experiences and to further understand my own learning process.

Technology has been an important part of the writing process for me this semester. I use tools like Microsoft Word for editing, revising, organizing, and saving many different drafts. This helps me edit my work with ease and allows me to keep track of all my previous drafts.

Technology has allowed me to get quick responses from my teacher and peers resulting in quick changes and improvements to my written work. With the help of technology, I am able to stay better organized and revise my work much quicker.

Writing this essay helped me realize that I have developed into a much better writer than I was previously. When the semester started, my main focus was very simplistic, as it only encompassed completing my assignments on time, earning good grades, and getting through the semester. Today, I look back and understand I have gained so much more. I have increased my ability to understand myself better in relation to writing and discovered there is no fast and easy improvement to writing as it takes time to develop the skills through practice, revision, and being patient.

The most valuable lesson I have learned when looking at myself as an author is the fact that improvement is a slow and continuous process. Each assignment, revision and reflection helped me develop as a writer over the course of this past semester. Understanding how I write and

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acknowledging my development as a writer will help me with future challenges whether in classes or later in life. While there are areas for improvement that I see today, I feel like I have a much better idea of what kind of writer I am and a lot more confidence in being able to express my thoughts clearly and concisely.