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### Eighteen Weeks Of A Writer

This course has given me the challenge that I needed. The consistency of work kept me on my toes. If it wasn't Norton reader it was Norton writer or it was both. Looking back I see that as a gift when in the process, I saw it as a curse. I found myself getting into the essay that we read and deeper into the ones we wrote. A lot of the prompts were freeing and open where you can really explore and sharpen your skills on topics that you had a personal interest in and not topics that you had to fake you were interested in. Another popular theme of composition was annotating. Before this class, I've never seriously annotated. I've made small notes here and there but I never tried to create questions and grab parts of the essay that would make good conversation. The annotations do help when in the Socratic seminars since It helps you retain the essay better. My favorite essay slash Socratic seminar we had was "Black Men And Public Space." I related to this essay the most and it brought very good conversations on race and how we view each other in society.

I feel confident in how I did in the class grade-wise, but I do believe I could do better. I was not able to put in the hours necessary for the course. I had a hectic schedule throughout the first semester and that caught up to me in the long haul. Late nights left little time to properly sit down and clearly think about what I needed to do to make my work the best it could be. At times

it felt like I was running on a treadmill and no matter how fast I ran I still stayed in the same place. In the second semester, I am planning on freeing up my schedule as much as I can. Get the essentials out the way like a driver's license on breaks and really focusing on the work at hand. Once I can free up the time I think I can elevate my work in this class. Not just because I will have time to actually do it, but because I will have a clear mind space to put towards the class.

My favorite thing or activity that I have taken from this class is freewriting. The concept of freewriting is a really cool way to just get your ideas onto paper and see an essay form from nothing. There will always be some bad things on a free write but the concepts and ideas that you can grab from it will only elevate the end product. An essay Will never be written if you do not start writing. So breaking the mental block barrier and word vomiting can be a really cool experience.

It's funny because reading the essays in the Norton Reader was one of my favorite parts out of a writing class. The Norton Reader was filled will interesting essay after essay. There were some duds but for the most part, I was interested in whatever I was reading at the time. I also couldn't put down "Outliers" Malcolm Gladwell has such great voice in that book that I get hooked on every word. He brings concepts and makes connections that I have never given great thought to. It was a perfect easy read that stimulated the mind.

In these eighteen weeks, I feel like I have become a better writer and a better thinker. Analyzing text with a fine-tooth comb and writing essay upon essay has really sharpened my skills. Learning the technical side of writing has really given me a better perspective on myself and my strengths and weaknesses. Continuing through Composition two I want to hammer down on the grammatical errors that I have developed from my everyday speech. I also want to get

better at finding a new and interesting way to spin a story so It's not like a broken record trying to reach a word count. I'm looking forward to what's to come. For new challenges and barriers to jump over. Looking back I had a great semester but I'm striving for an amazing one in the next eighteen weeks.