

English 10 Computer Composition Term One

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Start Date: 10/05/2023

Due Date: 11/02/2023

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Journals

1. Memorable Teachers

I've had many memorable teachers throughout my life, I've had school teachers, coaches, and guest speakers but, out of all those memorable teachers, there are a couple that stand out more than others. The most memorable teacher in my life was the teacher that I had in both grade 3 and grade 5 her name was Madame Rusell. While she's my most memorable teacher she's also probably my favourite teacher from elementary school as well. I think the reason she's my most memorable teacher is because she helped me out during a hard time in my life when I was struggling with some family issues. She was a very kind teacher, but she was also firm when she needed to be. There was one downside to her being my teacher though, as she was the union representative for teachers at that time, so she had to go to a lot of meetings which meant she wasn't in class a whole lot therefore leaving us with substitutes who weren't always as kind as her.

Covid hit right in the middle of when I was in grade 6 and unfortunately for me, the teacher that I had from the beginning of the year didn't end up continuing to teach me during the online school time. I think that's what makes him memorable to me. I remember him telling us that one day he'd teach us English and Math using Minecraft and other video games somehow. It was a crazy concept but, the way he talked about it made it sound like a very plausible idea. I remember being really sad and disappointed when online school happened because I knew that we wouldn't get to do it. Another reason that he was a memorable teacher to me was because he was the first male teacher that had ever taught me full-time, of course, I had other male teachers, but none of them had ever taught me every day from 9am-3pm. The last reason he was a memorable teacher to me was because I found his name very fun to say, it's not a funny name but it felt like it just rolled off my tongue every time I said it. My teacher's name was Monsieur Bourque, see how it just sort of rolls off your tongue when you say it.

The teachers I've previously talked about have been memorable because of the positive impacts they've had on my life but unfortunately, there have been a few teachers who had a negative impact on my life. The most memorable one was my grade 2 teacher, Madame Lenard. I guess in hindsight she wasn't subjectively that bad of a teacher but, I still remember her as being one of my least favourite teachers at the time and even now as well. My least favourite memory with her was when she was teaching us, sometimes we'd go down to the computer lab and instead of playing fun games, we'd have to do typing lessons, which was considerably less fun. When we weren't doing typing lessons, she was just a mediocre teacher but, I'll always remember her as the teacher who made us type instead of letting us play games.

2. Disasters

Disasters are very scary things that have been a fear of mine since I was little. I've always had the fear that my house would burn down in the middle of the night once I fell asleep, which makes it very difficult to sleep. Social media hasn't helped subdue my fear of disasters, it's actually amplified it. I remember one night about a year ago, I was in a resort called Great Wolf Lodge and I went crying to my mom because social media had made me believe that WW3 was coming, and I was terrified. I feel like while disasters are very widely talked about in real life or in movies no one really knows the full extent of the possible damage they can cause, and I think that's honestly what makes me fear them the most.

Throughout my time in school, both elementary and secondary I've been taught about different disasters that have happened throughout history such as WW1, WW2, etc... In my lifetime I've also experienced a few disasters, while they haven't always been firsthand, they've all affected my life in different ways. A recent example of a disaster that's affected my life was the forest fires throughout the Northwest Territories because the smoke from those fires traveled into Vancouver and made the air very smoky and hard to breathe in.

In school we have to prepare for the possibility that a disaster could occur so, the school has set drills to ensure that everyone knows what they're doing and does so safely. Some examples of these drills are fire drills where everyone calmly walks out of the "burning" building and onto the field or an earthquake drill where everyone hides under their desk or table to protect themselves from the falling rubble. These drills are so important to keep us all safe and calm, seeing as the worst thing you could do during a disaster is panic and then do something stupid.

Canada isn't usually known for its disasters but, we do have a couple of possibilities for disasters. The most common disasters in Canada are fires, earthquakes, snowstorms, and floods. Not every area in Canada will have as high a chance of a disaster occurring vs a different area in Canada for example Ontario is more likely to have a huge snowstorm than Vancouver is, it's possible for Vancouver to get a snowstorm but less likely. While these disasters are very scary, they're a natural part of life and the best thing we can do is prepare for the inevitable, no matter how much it scares us.

3. Technology

I like technology but I can see how other people might not love it. This is my first year at Sutherland, I recently transferred over from Seycove and the Performance Learning Program. The program was a special program in which we used iPads for our learning, so I was on a device most of the day and I found it was very helpful for my independence and self-control because I had to stop myself from playing games and goofing off. It's been a big switch to go from all that independence at Seycove to the very strict rules at Sutherland, sometimes it feels like I've gone back in time. I understand that some students might not have as much control as me, but I also believe that the only way they'll learn to control themselves is to make mistakes.

Technology is so cool and very powerful; I mean you've got the entire world and all sorts of information right at your fingertips. Since we have so much power at our fingertips it can also be very scary when people misuse that power, like Peter Parker's Uncle Ben said: "With great power comes great responsibility." Technology has so many uses, it can be a learning tool, it can be used to contact a family member out of town, or it can even be used to play and have fun. My favourite ways to use technology are connecting with my friends/family through text or social media and staying informed about world events through the news.

While technology has caused lots of good things to come from it, we should also note that there are lots of bad things that have come from it as well. I've seen phones blow up in people's faces and there's lots of cyberbullying on the internet but, there are also so many good things that come from technology like connection and art which I think outweigh the bad. I believe everyone should have access to technology because our world is so technological now and without technology, accessing so many things becomes difficult. For example, when you go to a museum sometimes there will be an exhibit with a QR code that you need a phone or a tablet to access and without that phone or tablet you won't get the full experience. Sometimes I wish our world wasn't so infatuated and reliant on technology, but it is the way it is.

Technology isn't just phones and computers, it's also new surgery tools or more advanced weapons, and I think it's really cool how far we've advanced with these kinds of technology. We've advanced so far in our technology and knowledge since, for example, the 1950's, it's kind of insane how much we've accomplished in such a relatively short time. With the help of all this technology we've created and advanced I think in the years to come we'll make even more amazing things using technology and I'm very excited if not a little nervous for those days to come.

Formal Essay: English Progress Report

My progress so far in English this year has been very satisfactory, and I believe that I've done all my work to the highest standard I could manage. In this essay, I will be giving a progress report on my progress in English 10. I will talk about my progress from the short stories unit, free reading Fridays, this computer composition assignment, and the punctuation unit. By the end of this essay, you will have a complete understanding of my current progress in English.

The first thing I'm going to talk about is the short stories unit. There are lots of aspects to this unit, the first is the Q&A section. This part of the short stories unit is where we answer questions about the story we just read, I believe that I've done very well in this part because I pay attention to what we read, and I also copy down all the questions quickly and efficiently. The next part of this unit is the PW|W which is how we score our work from the Q&A. So far, my marks on this part of the unit have been pretty good, I've never scored lower than 4.5. I believe that my marks have been good because I've worked so hard, and I've participated a lot. We

haven't done the unit test for this subject but with my current work habits and marks, I have a feeling that with some studying I'll do well on the test.

The next subject I'm going to talk about is free reading Fridays. Arguably the most important part of free reading Fridays is bringing a book, which is also a pretty large part of the overall mark for the subject. So far, I've always brought a book for free reading Fridays and that means I've been doing good at that part. This leads to the next point for this subject, which is attendance. So far, I haven't missed any classes which we read in but, that doesn't mean I'll miss one in the future, if I do, then I'll go into tutorial to make up the mark that I would have missed. As I briefly mentioned I currently have perfect marks for free reading Fridays because I haven't missed a class, I always bring a book, and I read for the whole time. What I mean by reading for the whole time is that I always sit up while I read so it doesn't look like I'm sleeping, and I don't pay attention to other potential distractions like my phone or someone talking. I believe my work in this subject is complementary to my current mark in this subject.

The computer composition assignment is the current thing you're reading but, that doesn't mean that I can't share my current progress on it. The first thing I'd like to talk about is my rewritten journal entries. Originally the journals were something we did at the start of a lesson, while writing them we didn't need to worry about spelling, grammar, or anything like that so for this assignment we had to rewrite those journals so that they made more sense. I believe that my rewrites have been a big improvement from the first draft and that I've shown my writing skills through the number of words and the little to no grammar/spelling mistakes. The next part of the computer composition assignment is the 2 essays, the first is the one I'm currently writing and the next one is my personal essay about my high school story. My progress in these essays is shown through my planning and how I've stuck to the plan I made as well as my writing skills and the layout of the essays. A part of this assignment that's on a separate document is my FUN activity. For my FUN activity, I chose to do anagrams of Disney movie titles because it sounded like a very fun topic, and it was also something that I could do at my current digital skill level. This shows my progress because I was able to recognize that I needed to pick something that wasn't super complicated seeing as I wouldn't be able to complete with my current skill set. The second to last part of this assignment is the layout of it. The way I laid out my assignment was very important to me because I wanted to make it easy for me and others to read. I decided to make a table of contents on the front page in a big font so everyone would be able to read it then, I made sure that the table of contents matched up with all the content as well, so it was easy to find. Part of my layout also includes titles for all my work so others or I can look at the title and know exactly what they're about to read. The last part of this assignment that I'd like to talk about is what I think my mark will look like. During this assignment, I've worked really hard to make sure that my quality of work is that of an A student by showing my planning and checking my grammar/spelling while also adding lots of detail and content to my work. I believe that according to the writing rubric, my work could be considered a 6.

The last subject that I'm going to talk about is the punctuation unit. Currently in this unit we've done a punctuation handout in which we've practiced and learned about different kinds of punctuation. The first thing that represents my progress in this subject is my participation in

class, I've participated by sharing the answers to a candy question and the sentence fragments/run-on sentences lesson questions. We're going to have a punctuation test on October 30th, 2023, and I believe that with some studying I'll do very well on it because I've paid attention to the lessons, and I've corrected my answers if they were wrong during the practice sections. Usually during the practice sections I get most of the questions correct but, when I get something wrong, I always make sure that I understand what I did wrong, so I don't make the same mistake again. The last section of this subject that I'd like to talk about is my note taking during lessons. I find it very useful when studying to look back at my notes because they're in my own words, so I know I'll understand them. This note taking is an example of how I extend as a student because we aren't always asked specifically to take notes but, I take the initiative and take some notes anyway to help me learn and understand at an even deeper level than expected.

My work in this essay has proven that my progress in English is satisfactory and done to the highest standard I can manage. Currently, I'm quite happy with my English progress, English has always been one of my more enjoyable classes because I really enjoy writing and I also really like how structured the class is, I like how the expectations are very clearly laid out. From the beginning of this course to the current day, I can see improvement in my writing which is always my goal because I don't expect perfection from myself but, I do expect progress. My current mark in English at the time I'm writing this is 97% which I'm very happy about but, I'd love to bump it up even higher. I'm very content with my progress in English but I hope to improve even more during this course with the help of my friends, teachers, parents, and my own perseverance.

Personal Essay: High School Story

Overall my high school story has been a crazy and challenging time, but it's made me more responsible and stronger because of all the challenges I've faced. Throughout this essay I'm going to take you through my high school story starting with the grade 7 to 8 transition, then my grade 8 year next, my grade 9 year, and later ending it off with my current grade which is grade 10. By the end you'll know more about me and my life experiences.

The beginning of my high school story started with the transition from grade 7 (elementary school) into grade 8 (high school). I found that deciding what school to go to was difficult because I wanted to get away from some of the people in my elementary school but, all the schools away from my elementary school were so far away. In the end, I decided to move schools to Seycove Secondary because of a program they run called PLP (the Performance Learning Program). It was scary to leave my elementary school friends and the security that came with them but, it was a necessary move that I ended up appreciating later. One of the things I had to do to get into the program at Seycove was "summer learning," a couple of activities like a book report, drawing myself as a peanuts character, and filling out some forms, after that, I was in the program. Now that I knew what school I was going to I could start my grade 8 year.

I had to figure out a lot of different things at the beginning of grade 8, one of those things was what bus I needed to take to get to school seeing as my mom couldn't drive me every day. I had to take 2 busses to school every day the first was the R2 to Phibbs Exchange and then the 212 to Deep Cove usually taking the bus wasn't that stressful but occasionally, the buses gave me a heart attack because they didn't come on time and when you're trying to get to school having a late bus is not a good thing. Even though it could be stressful, taking the bus to school has been very good for my responsibility. As I mentioned above, I went to a program called PLP for grade 8 and the system that PLP uses is very different from what I was used to in elementary, and it was a hard switch for me. Thankfully my teachers were very patient with me while I learned the new system. One of the things about PLP that drew me in was that we got to go on trips called field studies every year which gave us more real-world experiences outside of the classroom. In grade 8 my class went to a place called Loon Lake. It was a beautiful place surrounded by forest. I think it was usually used as a retreat for people with cancer but since COVID they couldn't host anymore. It was hard to be away from my family, but it was an amazing experience. I'm an introvert and making friends is something that I really struggle with so moving to a school where I didn't know anyone was scary but, I eventually made awesome, lifelong friends.

I started grade 9 off strong with a field study to Alberta. I loved Loon Lake, but I loved Alberta more even though I was cramped into a small bus with a bunch of my classmates for long periods while we drove to our next location. We drove around Alberta for a week, and it was amazing, I think my favourite place we went to was the Glacier Falls because I got to try some of the flowing water, and it was the most delicious water I've ever tasted. The trip ended off with a bang because the bus that we had been driving in decided to break down while we were in Golden on our way home. It all worked out though because we ended up taking a Greyhound-like charter bus back. I'll never forget Alberta and I'm very grateful for the experience no matter how crazy it was. Grade 9 was the year I started to do competition dance which is just normal dance except you went to different places to compete against different dance studios. I was only in one competition group compared to the four that I'm in now, but it was really fun, and I made lots of friends doing it. In 2019 I got a Christmas present which was a trip to New York but then COVID hit before we could go so in December of grade 9, I finally got to go to New York, and it was an amazing trip until we got stuck because of snowstorms, so we had to go to New Jersey since New York was very expensive. The worst part of getting stuck was that we got stuck through Christmas so we couldn't be with our family, or our dog and it was devastating. Even though we got stuck it wasn't completely awful because we got to go to an awesome theme park for Christmas in the American Dream Mall. One of the hardest parts of grade 9 was that I had to decide to move schools away from my friends and PLP because I wanted to dance more intensely. It was one of the hardest choices I've ever had to make and I spent many painstaking nights thinking about it, but in the end, I decided to move schools to Sutherland and so far, I think it's been the right choice.

The start of grade 10 felt like I was going back in time to grade 8 because I didn't know anything about the school or the people in it and it was terrifying, I only knew a couple of people and like I mentioned I'm an introvert so making friends is hard for me, but thank goodness for the people I knew who helped me get settled in because without them I don't think I'd be doing

as well as I am now. The start of grade 10 was also the start of my intense dance training, currently, I'm doing 19 hours of dance a week and it's been hard to manage school and extracurricular activities, but I think I've got a good system that works well for me. Managing everything that's going on in my life is challenging but I've got an amazing support system to help me through it. This year I've taken on a lot of responsibility for myself, my schoolwork, and my extracurriculars and even though I know that I'll make a couple of mistakes along the way I think the level of responsibility I have now will benefit me in the long run. Along with making new friends I also really miss my old friends; I still see them sometimes but going from seeing them every day to only seeing them on occasion has been hard for me. Another thing I miss is PLP. PLP was honestly the perfect program for me and it's hard to not be in it anymore but with perseverance and help from my friends and parents, I believe that I'll push through and learn to love the new way I'm learning.

These past few years have been crazy and challenging but they've shaped the person I am today and I'm so grateful for the challenges and hardships because they've made me stronger than I ever thought I'd be. While I loved Seycove I'm also really enjoying my time here at Sutherland. This school is definitely much bigger than Seycove was, but I've gotten used to it and I think in time I'll love it even more. I don't know what I'm going to do next year when it comes to my schooling and dance but, I do know that no matter what I choose to do I know that my friends and family will support my decision.