

# My Journey Through Intermediate Writing: Reflective Writer's Statement

The following pieces of work are a compilation of different elements of who I am. From a research paper relating to my field of study to a memoir and motivational book touching on one of the most personal issues in my life, it encompasses me. Not only do the pieces of work in this portfolio exhibit who I am as a person, but they also exemplify who I am as a writer. Each project demonstrates my ability to plan, execute and revise different types of prose. Each piece in this portfolio demonstrates a process-oriented approach by not only including the research and analysis of genres done before approaching my own work but also the different plans for projects, drafts, and revisions. With these elements it is easier to see how I have grown as a writer, noticed where my strengths and weaknesses are, and attempted to fix and refine what was needed in order to improve my skills. This portfolio shows the good and the bad, the beginning to the end, and shines light on the finishing products that show who I am as a writer.

Each project presented in this portfolio is a representation of a different skill I have. Not only are there critical projects and elements but also ways that I have exhibited my professional skills, technological writing skills, and creativity. In many ways, this portfolio is a large representation of my critical thinking and writing skills. The critical memoir forced me to sift through experiences, thoughts, and memories to come up with a practical way to tell my story. It was a difficult process but ultimately made me think more in depth and critically than I had in a long time. Another project forcing me to look at the facts was the research assignment, which is not my strong point and not my favorite type of writing. However, after choosing a topic of interest and relevance to my life, I found it so exciting to gather factual evidence to state my point. In this sense, I was relating my real life experiences to an issue very pertinent in education today. Though my research essay could use some work on evidential support, it is one that I was very pleased with in the end.

Yet another example of critical and even analytical thinking in this course was the parody project. Parody has been something I always shied away from so this project was one I thought I could never grasp. I had to do the research, understand the original piece, and get straight to the point when making my parody. It took me several attempts to find a topic and several attempts to get my final topic cohesive and coherent, but in the end it really helped me to develop my critical and analytical thinking skills. The resume assignment was one of the biggest eye openers for me in this course. I had to find a way to present myself on paper in the most direct and concise way yet still make it approachable and full of information. It was extremely difficult but a project that I found valuable and will find useful in years to come.

As mentioned before, not only does this portfolio exhibit my skills in various areas of writing but it also reflects me as a person. Each project has some sort of relevance to my life. The blog is centered around my job as a server, the memoir tells of a tragic yet defining experience in my life, the resume hints at a job I am interested in and portrays my abilities in the field of education, the research essay focuses on a major issue in the field of education, the parody looks at inspirational poetry and essentially leads into my book of inspirational quotes that I completed for my remix project. All parts of my life and all parts of me, these projects work together as pieces that can essentially be of use to me for the rest of my career and lifetime.

Not only are they personal pieces, but they also reflect my involvement in numerous communities such as education, the restaurant business and the relationships in my life. These

different communities I belong to are essential parts of my life and who I am. To be able to write toward these different important communities was beneficial and taught me a lot about the different modes of communication that I can use. Through narrative, professional work, and factual based arguments I can communicate with the people and communities of people in my life in so many ways that I did not realize were essential before. One area that I found to be more eye opening then expected was the weblog assignment. Communicating on the web and through technological sources to a community was something I had never done. This was a really great experience and something I will look into using in the future.

Through this introduction to technology based writing I have been able to realize that I am capable of developing a variety of different texts. I can turn my words into books, stories, arguments, and more. I was pushed further then I thought I would and in the most positive way. As I look at myself in the future, as an English teacher in the high school setting, I see myself using all of these techniques both in the classroom and personally. Not only will they help me to hone my creativity, thoughts, and writing abilities, but they can also help me to introduce concepts and different ways of expression to my students, which is something I strive for.

Though this entire portfolio is important to me and every piece holds a specific part of me, the pieces I am most proud of are the critical memoir and the remix project of that memoir. This project gave me an outlet. It was the first time I was able to express my feelings about this event from this angle. I was always negative, did not know where I was at in my life, and was still exploring all the repercussions of being through a tragic experience. This project pushed me to make peace with myself and with the situation and I am extremely happy that I was given this opportunity. I am proud of myself for facing the issue in this way and finally realizing who I was and what I wanted out of my life. This project was a growing experience for me. In the end, when I was able to make a remix project, there was no competition. I wanted to remix this project and make it into something more positive and helpful for people who are in situations of distress. My book "Pieces of Me" is meant to be a book of motivational quotes to inspire people to get through the hard times. I am so happy with the way both projects turned out. Not only did I learn a lot about myself, grow as a person, and figure out who I wanted to be and who I am, but I also moved on. This project was one of the most beneficial projects I have ever had to do. Something so simple ended up becoming a monumental piece for me. I am very proud of this project and very thankful that I was pushed to face my fears in a positive way.

Through the reading of this portfolio I hope that people get a better grasp of who I am; not only as a student but as a professional, as a writer, and as a person. This portfolio contains both personal and practical information that all means something very important to me. I write from the heart and always try to tie myself and my feelings into my writing as deeply as possible. Writing is an outlet for me and this class has pushed me to include writing in my daily life again. I do not wish for people to walk away from this portfolio thinking anything exceptionally specific about me, but instead I wish for reader's to walk away with a better sense of who I am and the realization that writing from any person can be what brings out the best, what makes us stand out from the crowd, and what expresses the things about ourselves that are not spoken about as often.

Enjoy!