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CRW 201

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**Portfolio Statement**

 This class has been such an eye-opener and learning experience for me. It has easily been my favorite course I have ever taken. I went into it already intending to be a creative writing major and this completely solidified my intentions. I learned a lot about myself and my strengths and weaknesses as a writer as well as more about the art of writing in general. It was a course that showed a wide variety of the aspects of creative writing that I didn’t even know or realize before.

 I think I’ve really learned to improve my imagery throughout this class and worked on the concept of “show don’t tell” because of how heavily this idea was stressed. This started out as a weakness for me, but I believe it to be one of my strengths now. I also learned the dialogue rule about how characters can only end dialogue with ways they can actually speak things not like “smiled Emily” because you can’t smile words. This is definitely a weakness for me that I will be way more aware of now because it makes sense. I learned through workshops that in my own writing I tend to make things not very clear on the page because they feel clear in my head and this is definitely a weakness I want to improve on. I think I need to read back over my work more times and from a perspective outside of myself and the story so I can see where things should be cleared up and expanded upon or explained. I do think that this class has opened my eyes to the fact I can portray emotions fairly well and capture the idea of them, but in turn I could work more on my character descriptions and allowing the reader to be able to pick them out if they were lined up against others.

 In terms of genres, I think my poetry really improved as I started out horrible and hating poetry. Now I find myself writing more of it in my free time and actually enjoying it and liking what I write. Poetry isn’t exactly what I thought it was because I always thought of it as strict and form and rhyme, but the free and more open styles are actually more up my alley and probably in my strengths. Nonfiction however is not one of my strengths. I struggle with putting too much dialogue in nonfiction pieces because that tends to be what I remember of situations and what stands out to me. I also just don’t particularly enjoy writing about myself because I find myself to be a hard character to create and I also don’t like to talk about myself much. Making things up is far easier for me because I can separate it from myself and real situations and people I know. Fiction is definitely my favorite and probably strongest genre. One thing I did learn though is that I really enjoy writing short stories even if I’m not particularly the strongest in them. I try to pack too much plot and action into too short of space. This is something I definitely want to work on and I want to focus more on character development for shorter pieces.

 The most important thing I’ve learned about myself as a writer is that there is more to writing than just novels. There are so many small things I can write and enjoy just as much and this can truly help lead up to bigger projects. A lot of aspects of writing I tend to overlook and want to just focus on big long drawn out storylines, but really a simple poem can be just as effective in expressing the ideas I need to release. I’ve also learned these smaller things can help develop characters and work on how you can show their attributes without directly stating them. Over all, my creative writing knowledge was taken to a whole new level and I feel as though I’ve grown more as a writer this semester than ever before.