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Developing My Writing

Writing used to be difficult for me, that is until I was determined to be the best that I could be at it. Critique regarding my writing has been very hit-and-miss, from praise, accomplishment, and achievement, to words of doubt, scorn, and deep criticism. It wasn't always the best. As a lot of things in my life, my writing skills weren't at their potential. When I read my old essays I am astonished at how far my writing has evolved. My sponsors, many of them from personal experience, have molded me into the writer I am today. They are all different, but they have helped me nurture the style of writing I use today.

Being able to demonstrate my personality in my writing has always allowed me to give the reader a sense of who I really am, and how I act in person. I feel that if I didn't, any writing I would render wouldn't be complete. My personality affects every decision I make, so why shouldn't I show that to the reader? If this is my work, I should be able to represent it very accurately, and it should reflect myself in words I choose. The ability to show a reader a sense of my personality really changes the way they read my work. For example, once I can bring the reader down to my level, the point of view I am writing a paper about, they can fully grasp the concept. I say this because I generally don't write a paper on a topic I am not very knowledgeable in. It's more comfortable to read, and there is a greater sense of perception and depth that I am allowed to show, as it is my voice they're reading. I can give the reader a sense of my world, and how to navigate how I think and how I do. A reason why I can so accurately depict myself in my paper and stand out from others is the different cultures I have been exposed to.

Cultural differences are a very prominent reality when you experience another environment. There are so many things that one culture does differently compared to other cultures. People of different cultures are exposed to different things, and thus they can come to a piece of writing with a mindset dissimilar to that of the author. Now this might not seem obvious in writing, but it clearly and obviously is if you know what you are looking for. Just reading literature from people that are from different cultures around the world shows the differences in how they see everything. A great example can be made with a person of with a background in poverty. If for example, Mark Cuban reads a paper of such said person, he won't be able to fully grasp the meaning and depth the author from a background of poverty presented in such paper of that person's life. Also, choice of words is different in almost every scenario I've come across. Also, dreams and inspirations are different as well. These are just some examples, and I always look for them in literature. I always pay attention to a specific celebrity writer that has had the opportunity to experience the differences between cultures. His writing always moves me in this aspect, and how he can portray it so well.

The only writer that has single handedly influenced my entire writing skill is Anthony Bourdain. Evaluating the level of detail that he places in his writing has challenged me to demonstrate as much in my own. This challenge wasn't a personal one from him, mainly my own awe at his writing whenever reading it provoked this reaction from me. I would generally evaluate his writing by going through and marking all the times he managed to put a clear picture in my head. After going through and marking everything, I reread just the text that managed to put the picture in my head. Then I would grab previous texts I had written, and tried to implement the exact type of picture into my text. I wouldn't stop until I made a picture with the clarity he gave me in his pictures. The way he moves his details through further details so fluently and in a very aggressive manner has always inspired me to write with a reflective detail-filled style. For me to write like Anthony Bourdain would indicate that I have achieved a much higher level as a student of writing. This style has allowed my mind to portray all my five senses into a given paper, and in a very well informed manner. It helps me really show the reader what I am experiencing. I believe that is a very useful skill to have when you tread on detail necessary waters, such as playing a sport.

When sports enter the picture, a lot changes. Competitive sports were a very big part of my life, until a year ago. Now I just enjoy playing the games that I worked so hard to become successful in. But these sports have also trained me not just in games, but also in my life. What a sport teaches is more than what can be said. The constant repetition, pain, and struggle in a competitive sport become hard lessons in every aspect of your life. It can be argued that going through everything I've gone through in sports has sharpened my skills in my writing tremendously. Before I began playing sports, my daily activities were subject to my own whim. After I got into sports, every aspect of my life became a hard-working climb to perfecting every aspect of my game. Every sport teaches something different, but what's interesting is that the principle of discipline correlates in all of them. The sport that I've dedicated most of my time to is basketball. Ball was life for me for a very long time. I've learned the most from this sport. Basketball is the main reason behind my discipline in all aspects of my life, but I have gathered similar discipline from other sports such as golf, and track. But seeking perfection in sports makes seeking perfection in my everyday reality more feasible and easier to do. Since I was constantly on top of perfecting everything to do with sports, it was just natural to seek perfection in every aspect of my life. But the idea of having discipline isn't enough, it has to be mentored and nurtured until it reaches its potential.

My English teacher my junior year, who became my mentor my senior year, has single handedly been the only person that has helped me nurture and perfect the writing I use today. His reasoning for helping me was my ambitious nature. When I first entered his class, I was writing low level papers. During this period, I had so many questions, and he answered every single one. After this entire period, I was writing solid high level papers. This man helped me go through every little thing that was wrong with my writing, or that needed improvement and helped me become excellent in my writing, mainly from just sticking with my want of improvement in my writing. He would help me whenever I needed it, and he would take time out of his day to help me achieve what I wanted to with writing. But the only reason he helped me, was because I was helping myself. I was pushing myself, and I wanted to be the best writer I could be. I was a very ambitious individual, and that ambition has helped me dramatically.

The last aspect and probably most important aspect that has made me the writer I am today has to be my ambition. This is a huge part of everything in my life, and it very much affects every single part of it. Ambition is a very strong poison, and once it is acquired there is not much you can do to cure it. I strive to always be better in my writing. I used to write papers over and over again until I felt it was perfect. I didn't see these as drafts or work, I just saw them as obstacles to become the best writer I could become. By the best writer, I mean having the ability to precisely and accurately inform the reader of my topic, and having minimal errors. It's funny how long ambition can fuel a person. When I first moved to the United States, all my teachers told me I would fail all my classes since I wasn’t a fluent speaker of English. I ended up proving every person I have ever met in my life that has told me I couldn't do something wrong. I believe that statement to be accurate to this day in fact, and it's meant to be maintained throughout my entire life. Ambition fuels me, and a person telling me I can't do something fuels my ambition. This is what has allowed me to always ask for advice, and seek help, and has helped me nurture my obsession to become a great writer. It's a never ending cycle, and I am still surprised at all the negative people tell me.

To conclude, my want to be the best writer I can possibly be has brought me pretty far. It has taken me through different areas, and different experiences, and has still somehow managed to improve my writing. Being able to portray my personality serves as the foundation of my work. Cultural differences let me see writing in a new light, and helped me understood how others view texts differently according to where they come from. Anthony Bourdain helped take me through the voyage of cultural differences, and challenged me to better my details in my writing. Sports helped me maintain these disciplines in a way that would eventually make me a great writer. My English teacher helped me nurture these disciplines I had come to develop to make them masterful, and make them efficient. And my ambition is what has kept me going this far, and further yet. It's very crazy to think of what a determined man can do, but I feel like I am an example of this. I came from being a low level communicator through writing, to an above average communicator through writing. It's actually just as crazy to think to myself of this personal voyage I took to better myself. My writing is improving every day, and I plan to nurture it's growth by maintaining everything I've been taught every day.