

Hatty Gardner

Professor Debra Busman

HCOM 330: Intro Creative Writing

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Writing Process Analysis

This class has given me unique insight into the writing process, and my writing process in particular. Starting off at the beginning of the semester, I was more uncertain about my abilities as a writer. I thought I could be good at it, but I hadn't done non-essay writing in a long time. Over the semester, I've become more confident in the idea of just putting my ideas down on paper for a first draft and accepting that I may actually have ideas other people might like to read, or that might just benefit me to write.

I've become much more okay with making a first draft that isn't perfect, especially after my experiences with the short story and with free-writes. I've discovered that in all cases I work best if I just pour what I'm thinking onto the paper without over thinking it too much. Of course, being myself, I've found I still often end up putting down a first draft that is pretty clean. But the important thing for me is to not spend too much time on each individual word/ sentence/ paragraph/ piece, it gets frustrating, painful, and discouraging. A huge part of what this class has done for me is allowing me to really accept and respect the editing process as part of the writing process. The short story was like pulling teeth, and because I was agonizing over starting it and writing it so much, I didn't finish it in time for the class. I think if I had just stopped worrying so much, it would have been alright. However, I suspect that it will take me a long time to become

comfortable and at ease with straight fiction writing. I did end up really liking the final product though. Even if it's hard, I want to keep writing.

It was funny to me that apparently so many people are afraid of poetry to start with. It's definitely my most comfortable writing style. None of the poems I wrote for the class stressed me out in the way the short story did. I just sat down and did them and had fun trying to make it flow and include imagery. I found that reading the poems aloud when I was revising them so I could check how it rolled off my tongue was a really useful technique.

Another takeaway from my time in this class was to take inspiration from other writers. I really enjoyed incorporating ideas from other writers into my own works and using them to experiment or make my pieces more interestingly formatted. My autobiography and social action pieces both borrowed from other writers. The autobiography owes its formatting style to Alice Walker and Tim O'Brien, and the formatting is one of the things I like best about my autobiography. While the social action piece borrows the entire national anthem and also the pledge of allegiance.

For all of my pieces I played around with formatting and flow as major devices of the storytelling process. I tried to format things and tweak my writing style so that I could better express the emotion I was trying to convey. Overall, I felt I was pretty successful, especially with the final drafts. Being able to take all I had learned and absorbed throughout the semester about imagery, structure, and flow and apply it to my final drafts was really satisfying. I felt I was able to fully express my truths which I was exploring in each piece.