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Portfolio Creative Process Essay

Word count: 776

Grade level: A

I think that my creative process more or less stayed the same throughout the course of the semester. At this point in my college career, I would like to think that I know how I work, and what the best way for me to go about writing is. I suppose my writing process has changed somewhat because of my hand, but I don't think it taking longer because it is harder to type or write really counts. I still think I start off strong in my writing, then taper off as time goes on, and I eventually become frustrated with my work, and I don't like returning to it to add on once the project is finished.

For the found poetry project, I think I understood the medium and the genre well, but I think my execution could've been better. Of the found poetry methods, I found that the cento method worked the best for me, while the blackout method didn't work as well. I think that the cento method worked best because it didn't not have the constraints of trying to find words already on a page that the blackout method has, but it also was more limited that the cut-up method, which I struggled with because I would spend too long looking for exactly what I wanted to say.

I think my collage project turned out interestingly, even if it was not what I was planning to do. I started out with a completely different idea but hunting through magazines trying to find specific words was taking too long, so I had to switch to something else or risk not getting it done. I think it shows my ability to throw something else together somewhat quickly when my initial plans don't work out, which I suppose could be a very important part of a creative process.

The exercises I liked most were the ones where we were given a short prompt then let free to just start writing. I think these worked well for me because I didn't put too much thought into them, I would just think of an idea and go. I wouldn't trip myself up by worrying if this or that would work, I would just start writing and whatever I ended up with I ended up with. The two exercises I enjoyed most were the one where we took the first sentence of another work and started writing using that as a prompt (at least I think that's what we did), and the one where we wrote an object, a place, and an item on pieces of paper, passed them around our table, and wrote stories based on them. I think this type of short, prompt-inspired fiction writing is something I would like to do more of in the future. I think it would be better for me if I keep writing by just doing it in short bursts and not caring if I come back to projects, rather than trying to stick with every story I start.

I still think that the suggestion from *Steal Like an Artist* of having an analogue and a digital desk is a good one, and I wish I had space for it. Sure, I can go out to the counter or the table, but I like to spread out when I work, and it would be nice to be able to leave my mess spread out to come back to when I pause a project, but that would just get annoying if I don't have a space specifically for that.

I also still like the idea that Elizabeth Gilbert brings up in "Permission" that creating for yourself yields better results than creating for others. When I write stories for myself, there is no word count, no expectation, and I can just set it down when I hit a block or get frustrated and it doesn't matter if I come back to it at all. With writing for classes, I have to come back to it, and I have to finish it, even if I am

getting frustrated because those page requirements, those word counts, those other guidelines are there because it is for a class. I'm not saying I don't think I should write for a class, or I don't try in my class writing, I just think this idea explains why I get frustrated more easily when working on writing for classes. I like to be able to walk away from projects and take mental breaks, but that is not always possible with classwork, especially if I end up putting things off and doing them closer to the deadline than I should.