

Before the Big Screen

Development

On Monday, August 17th, 2015 at approximately 3:35 P.M., I encountered my first foe—the woman who would later drive me to insanity and break my heart: Sarah Turula. I entered English 1102 with boundless confidence in my ability to weave my ideas together into a unified argument. To me, the writing process was like filmmaking, and I wanted nothing more than to receive the highest award for my efforts: an Oscar—or a big, fat 100%, in my case. In hindsight, I believe my professor took pleasure in dangling that goal right in front of my nose. I felt like the Leonardo DiCaprio of English 1102, always nominated but never awarded. However, rather than giving up, I worked and worked to better myself. I became my biggest critic and discovered my fatal flaw: my writing was too vague. By comparing my writing process to the progression of creating a movie, I was able to assess my strengths and weaknesses. I became acutely aware of how significant point of view was in regards to filmmaking and realized that it was just as significant to my writing process. Entering English 1102, I was certain of my writing prowess, but being in this course has taught me that _____ ave to be a lone endeavor. In

Pre-production

_____ and I remember how I smiled to myself at her kind warning. To me, her _____ Yet, somehow, I had enough confidence in my ability to sway a difficult audience; I had assumed that my first essay would be a blockbuster, and that the other two would be just as successful. I was wrong, of course. My first essay flopped miserably. _____ actually _____ grade I was striving for, and that was a shocker for me. For one thing, I chose to analyze a poem I had already familiarized myself _____ *Mirror*. I thought doing so would give me the upper hand in piecing _____ In

yet I deliberately chose the poem I had already covered in my twelfth-grade AP English Language and Composition class because I thought no one would be able to tell me my ideas were wrong. I began my journey into becoming a better writer by running away from critique.

Filming

lives of those that look into i

It was a very undeveloped and elementary thesis. My entire introductory paragraph lacked the factor that was necessary to explain exactly why my argument was relevant. I failed in describing what _____ into what role the mirror had in the poem. My introductory paragraph was a shallow gloss over what could have been an in-depth analysis, and frankly, I was surprised that I received an 88 on this paper. My professor was too kind. If I were to grade myself now, I would give my first essay a 79 at best. Similar to how I approached my final essay, I made the mistake of being so comfortable with my poem of choice that I forgot my audience might not have the same context I did for supporting my argument. I was blindsided by the fact that my audience was not me, and although my argument might _____ essay was graded. That was when I realized how important perspective was when it came to essay writing.

The assignments leading up to the second paper and the second paper itself will always be remembered as getting my grade on the first essay before I was catapulted into the second one. There was no quiet lull before the storm. I blinked and I came face to face with a hurricane of essays and short stories I had no hope of comprehending, but instead of remaining optimistic, I immediately gave up. In fact, I sent my professor an email stating that I was worried that gotten. Little did I know that my desperation would become a blessing in disguise. Because I had reached out and admitted that there was a task that I lacked confidence in completing well, I received something priceless from my professor: perspective. With her advice, I was able to change my writing into something mature and refined. Rather than presenting my audience with an attempt at gathering my ideas together, I gave them depth. I gave them perspective. That was the first and only essay I had ever made an A on in the class, but although I had improved, I

pa
of writing.

When the time came for me to write my third and final paper, I can honestly say I put every ounce of my soul into that essay, but I made a crucial mistake. My confidence blinded me yet again, and I sought no opinions from those that would tell me where my writing needed improvement. Rather, I received words of encouragement from close friends who were much too biased to approach my paper objectively like my professor would have. In descriptions that is very nice. But there is a real problem in that you seem to take for granted that your reader , once again, I had assumed

grade I criticism because my ego somehow managed to convince me that I was right and that my limited, two-dimensional essay was profound a work of art. For know it has the potential to be more than what my limitations turned it into. After all, it was my second paper that inspired me to think of my writing process as filmmaking. I want to do it justice and show it in its best light. I want it to get the recognition it deserves.

Post-production

When I reflect on the difficulties I faced in my English class during the course of this semester, it eases my mind to know that my struggles were not just my own. I believe it goes without saying that my writing would never have improved as much as it did without the input I received from not only my professor but my peers as well. Being meek and timid in a social sense never helped when it came to the writing or the communicating with others. I was selfish as well and prided myself on the notion that my writing surpassed those around me, but as a soar to new

received from my classmates. Without them and without their perspectives, my writing would never be where it is now.

Release

experience. To me, writing is like filmmaking, but what makes a movie great is not the plot itself. Rather, it is the plot, camera techniques, actors, scene directors, makeup artists, and much more that turn ideas into reality. When a film wins an Oscar for Best Picture of the Year, a whole team

finally stopped running away from: perspective.