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### **Writing Experience Reflection**

My writing journey has changed a lot over the years. At first, my writing was awful and not as fluent as it is now. I used to find it boring and something I just had to do for school. That changed during senior year when I met Ms. Perez. She taught me everything I knew about writing before coming to college. It really started with the book *Bodega Dreams* by Ernesto Quiñonez. That book brought life to my literacy experience and woke up the writer in me. Writing became serious during the time of college essays. I remember writing about four different essays because it suddenly felt easy to just spill out my feelings and thoughts. Most importantly, it became therapeutic for me. Since then, I have seen writing as a coping mechanism, and it works very well.

Through this experience, I also discovered what I am good at. I am good at understanding my audience and writing in a way that connects with them. I take care of spelling and pay attention to details so that my work is clear. I am also good at creating outlines, which helps me organize my ideas before I start writing. Proofreading is another strength of mine, because I like to go back and fix mistakes to make my writing stronger. I also know how to use rhetorical devices, which make my essays more engaging and persuasive. These skills help me feel confident when I write.

Even though I have grown a lot as a writer, there are still things I need to improve. Sometimes I use too many unnecessary words, and I need to learn how to keep my writing more

direct. I also need to work on my grammar. Since I am bilingual and English is my second language, my essays are not always perfectly written. Still, I know that practice will help me improve. Writing has become a tool for me, both in school and in life, and I want to continue getting better at it.