

Dear Professor Yan Laura,

The process of writing and revising this assignment was both fun and a little chaotic. When I began writing my first draft, I must admit that I literally sat down and threw everything I remembered down to the paper. I didn't really think much about grammar or anything like that. I just wanted to get everything down on paper. This process was also when I learned an important lesson. I learned that starting with a messy or even a "shitty" draft is a great way to start writing. Once everything is down on paper, it is much easier to refine everything.

For my revision, I focused more on grammar, clarity, and adding more details to the parts of the story that were a bit too short. My peers pointed out that the ending of my story felt rushed, so I made it a bit more detailed by adding more details about the English test itself. I added more about the moment I had to describe the picture in two minutes. That part was stressful because suddenly my brain felt empty. It was like my vocabulary just packed its bags and left the room. I also added the meaning to the words in my mother language.

Peer review assisted me in seeing my story from a reader's point of view. My classmates pointed out things that I didn't notice when I was writing my story, such as how my story was confusing and that I should add more detail to my ending. I was able to clarify my story and make it more interesting through their review, not to mention I got to hear so many interesting stories from my classmates.

The genre that I used in my story is a personal narrative. My target audience will be my professor, my classmates, English learners, and international students who would be interested in studying abroad. I also think that students who will be taking English exams and scholarships will be able to relate to my funny struggles.

The best part of this assignment is recalling my funny moments with my friends. While I was revising my story, I realized that my friends and I would laugh at how stressful our situations were. I realized that writing is not all about making it perfect at first. It's more about throwing your story onto the page.

After our one on one review, I added more specific details to the conclusion and made the ending clear and tried to show how the experience became meaningful and memorable for me.

And I am proud that I managed to write this story. It wasn't easy to combine all shitty drafts :).
The question is that it is still hard for me to focus on one point for the story and also to figure out what to write and remove from the draft depending on the audience of my story cause it seems like details but sometimes it makes the story irrelevant.

Thanks for your time and feedback. This assignment reminded me that writing is a messy, fun adventure and that's exactly how it should be.

Best,

Gervais Ngabo