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College Writing 1~ Monday 2:20 pm

Literacy Narrative

As I reflected back on my literacy history, I came to the conclusion that I had not liked reading or writing since I was a child. I believed that reading was equivalent to studying and that it lacked any enjoyable benefits to offer me, and writing was synonymous with homework, which I was not good at. There is no childhood memory of any relatives reading to me, or some favorite story that would eventually lead me to the love of reading. For instance, if someone ever suggested that I read a book to pass the time, I would vehemently object, explaining that I didn't find reading to be entertaining and that it was more like completing homework. My evaluation seemed reasonable to me at the time since throughout my youth, and into my adolescence, I was told by teachers that my ability to comprehend what I was reading "NEEDS IMPROVEMENT", and my grades throughout high school continued to confirm that.

When I continued combing through the years of my literacy history, specifically searching for a time when I chose to read a book, or just read anything that was not academically enforced on me and I found it extremely difficult to recall much. There were not many occasions, but I did remember a time when my aunt Donna brought me to a store in New York City and told me to choose a present for my eleventh birthday, and I decided on a book. I still can not recall why I chose a book, but I distinctly recall it was a mystery book where you were able to choose

the decisions for the characters at the end of each chapter, making for an exciting outcome each time. That was the type of book that I was interested in and since it was the antithesis of what I read at school, I found it was easy for me to understand and enjoy. Easy reading was primarily the type of reading I would enjoy, and what I chose as a youth, and throughout my young adult years.

I went to Cosmetology School and Makeup Training that had little to no writing and reading, so I was able to excel and learn in school as a result. The majority of learning at that time was based on listening and demonstration, rather than reading or writing. While working as a makeup artist in my early twenties, I encountered celebrity clients who had written biographies that I was interested in reading. This began a period of time when I started reading by choice.. It was during this time that I began reading a number of books about people who had been affected by childhood adversity and the ways in which they dealt with it. The way I viewed reading changed over time, and I began to develop a passion for reading and an appreciation for it.

Writing, however, remained to invoke the same reaction it did when I was a young, an overwhelming feeling of unenjoyable work that I am not good at. That was my general feeling toward any type of writing, whether it was a text, an apology, letter or even directions, if it involved writing it was overwhelming work. I felt I could not articulate in writing what I wanted to say, so if something required writing I either made a template response for work or called I instead of writing, anytime it was an option. I never realized just how much my dislike for writing had become, besides I felt justified having disliked something I believed I was not good at or capable of improving. I was creative with beauty and loved talking to people, I was able to

express my feelings with ease. My emotions and energy I displayed when I communicated, I felt could not be conveyed in words or at least if they could it was too much of a daunting task for me to do.

When I decided to go back to college at age fifty-two, my adverse reaction to the writing assignments clued me in that there was a deeper issue going on than just associating writing with schoolwork or academic criticism. I was frustrated that I did not have the ability to express what I wanted to say on paper the way it played out in my head. I could not decipher why I would react with such anxiety when asked to write about my feelings or just about anything. When I would be encouraged to journal for stress relief I would just summarize bible sermons instead of creating or articulating thoughts on paper. I realized after exploring what might be the issue and I realized writing is teaching us to process our thoughts. Writing has been what God has been using the last couple months to heal the way I think. I still continue to find writing an extremely daunting task but it has caused my to lean into the strength of God for the ability to write.