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A Writer's Journey

Growing up I was always the child out of the bunch to go the extra mile when it came to my education. Reading and writing are two very important skills to develop as you grow. It may be intimidating to some while others across the globe are not afforded the opportunity some of us have today in regards to our education. Anyone who wants to be a successful individual in life must acquire the skill sets of communication, effective writing and reading. When it comes to development of these skills it was quite a journey.

The greatest encounters I had with developing my reading, writing and communication skills happened while I was in middle school. There was a time when my English language arts teacher Ms A. Louis was very particular about how her students wrote any writing piece. She would teach us first in class, then give us our writing assignment to write in class and lastly she would sit with each student at her desk to make revisions. She was not that type of english teacher to tell you what needed to be edited. She was the one who challenged you. First she made you read your paper out loud to her. Any mistakes you heard while reading she will make you edit it on the spot. Ms A. Louis gave you the red pen to make your own corrections.

Any paper we wrote had to be written neatly which I did not have a problem with at all. Knowing me I was and still is a stickler for neat handwriting. If I ever messed up on spelling a word I would in fact start from the very beginning and do it all over until it was right. I guess you can say this is where I get part of my extraness from.

The E.L.A class I attended in middle school was an honors class. One of the most challenging things I have experienced in this class was doing group projects. Everyone's thoughts were almost everywhere and most times the project we had landed in my lap. Being the nerd that I was, I had to do the work. At that time I was bullied really badly because I did not fit in with the rest. The other students in my group only needed me and desired me to be a part of their group because I was a very intelligent child. Being that they saw me as the smart child in the group, my knowledge was taken advantage of. Quite frankly some part of me hated it and another part of me loved it. I finally felt like I was at the brink of fitting in and making friends. However, that was not the case of the matter. The other students just wanted me in their group so that I could make their grade look good for our group project. The part of me that loved it was the need to be in the group from the other students. It made me feel included and super smart.

Now as a young child in middle school, I was obsessed with many things such as the arts as a whole, science and writing but not so much of reading. Reading was a subject that I did enjoy when reading picture books. As I grew in middle school I transitioned from reading picture books with colors in it to slowly gravitating to thick chapter books with line drawings. I challenged myself to read a thick chapter book in a day. So I went to the library and picked out the thickest comic book from the captain underpants collection and decided to sit down with snacks and read the entire book. Although it took hours for me to finish, I was so excited that I completed it in a day. The excitement that I obtained from completing a personal reading goal

extended to my mother and she celebrated me for completing the goal. From there I grew more into reading books.

Effective communication is an essential role in life. I've learned in middle school that it is more than just exchanging information with someone verbally, that is just the basics! Communication extends more into understanding the expressions of your emotions, intentions and even your voice in your writing. As I started to read and write more I found myself having a voice in my writing pieces whether it was an essay, a verbal presentation, a speech or even creatively writing. This allowed me to convey a message through my writing. My teacher at the time always taught us to speak passionately through our writing and be ourselves when we write because it causes our writing pieces to stand out from others.

Sometimes we really never take the time to see and realize that teachers play an important role in our lives and in our educational journey. Without Ms. A. Louis I do not believe I would be the person I am today educationally. She was the one teacher who I knew that was about her business and when it came to the subject that she taught. She did not just take anything from you. She positively pressured you and challenged you to do better.