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Professor Lux

ENG 364

20 February 2023

In Wardle and Downs, - For the following assigned reading, write a thoughtful 1 ½ - page typed response that includes the following components: at least one activity from “Getting Ready to Read”; a well thought-out answer to at least one of the “Questions for Discussion and Journaling”; and a written description of at least one activity you have done, as in “Applying and Exploring Ideas.” See Course Requirement #6 for more detail.

- Williams, Joseph. “The Phenomenology of Error” (37-55).

I have noticed that the errors I frequently make in my writing are simple errors that I know are incorrect but for some reason I keep making them anyway. I have noticed that sometimes my brain thinks at such a fast speed that when I write I sometimes skip ahead to other words and don't realize that I didn't write down some words which makes my sentences not make sense. This especially frustrates me because I tend to triple check everything I do and yet I still miss these errors in my work and don't realize until professor Lux points it out when reviewing my work. It disappoints me that I make these errors that can easily be avoided. Errors like writing the word 'it's' instead of 'its', I know the difference between the words and when I read other people's work it is the first thing I notice if it is used incorrectly but for some reason I continue to make the same mistake. I also struggle with citing, especially since it changes and not every class uses the same format.

Joseph Williams claims that “if we read expecting to find errors, we tend to find them, whereas if we aren’t looking for them we are less likely to notice them...” (Williams 54). This made me realize why I keep making the same errors repeatedly that I mentioned in my previous response. When I read my work I obviously have the intention of looking for errors but mostly I just re-read my work out loud and listen to how it sounds and that’s not the only thing that should be taken into consideration when reviewing work, this is why I realize that I also tend to have various run-on sentences in my work, from reading it out loud as if it were dialogue. In other words, Williams claim makes sense if you think of it in a literal way. For example, if I look for areas of my work that are missing comma’s then I will find where comma’s are missing, and so on with grammar, punctuation and such.

When I saw Williams diagrams of the concept of ‘violation and response’ my instant reaction was confusion. It looked like scattered alphabet soup to me, but once I read what each section said then it was pretty straightforward, and the diagrams made it easier to comprehend especially since I am a visual learner. To sum up Williams data, he believed that with violation and response there were a few different outcomes, Williams chart is basically a Punnett square but instead it shows different outcomes that can be paired using the words ‘violation’ and ‘response’.

In Wardle and Downs, - read and write a response letter to the author, the class, yourself, etc. (50 words or more):

- Diaz, Junot. "Becoming a Writer" (319-321).

Dear Junot Diaz,

I enjoyed reading your article because I felt I could really relate to it. When I read articles I assume that writing comes easily to the writers but I felt safe reading about your writing experiences because it shows me that I am not the only one experiencing struggles with writing. I have also spent days trying to get words written down, I even make the time to have full days off so that I can focus only on doing work and I get stuck and feel like a failure when the whole day has gone by and I wasn't able to get things done. I can't imagine how you felt being that writing is a passion of yours, and having difficulty writing must've been very frustrating especially since it was something you dedicated your life to and depended on financially. My advice to you from reading your work is that you have done much more than you think. Your article can be summed up as you ranting about struggling to write, but your story has an effect on your readers, at least to me it has had an impact. I think you shouldn't be so hard on yourself and maybe remember the reason why you chose to write, you chose to write because it's something you enjoy doing so don't forget to enjoy it and not force it.

Works Cited

Williams, Joseph M.. "The Phenomenology of Error". *Writing about Writing: A College Reader*. 1st ed., edited by Elizabeth Wardle and Doug Downs, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011, pp. 37-55.

Diaz, Junot. "Becoming a Writer". *Writing about Writing: A College Reader*. 1st ed., edited by Elizabeth Wardle and Doug Downs, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011, pp. 319-321.