Reflective letter

As I sit here in class, and write this letter, I remember the first day for school. It was a nice day, I was nervous about new college life, and fortunately didn’t miss the bus that I need to ride. When I get into this class, as soon as I walked in I felt like “Ah this is college!” And Mr. Mangini, who’s my English professor, was standing in front of the classroom preparing class, and classmates start to get in to the classroom. I was really nervous that I might can’t catch up the class lecture but when he start to tell us about class and what we’ll going to do, I wasn’t nervous or pressured at all. So I start with no pressure for this class. However, through the class I learned lots of stuff, and also got lot of homework, too. Mostly it was reading but soon we got writing homework as blog posts and essays.

At second day of this class we got the assignment named “reflection.” This is what we write about things that we learned through that week and things that happened in our life. Actually this assignment is a little bit hard for me, because our class usually doing lots of listen, talk, and discussion but not many writings down as other science or math classes. And At the time when I need to write my reflection, I can’t remember well what we did during that week. But now I start to writing down during the class to track myself where I am and check do I understand what we learned during class, and it actually helped me to write more accurate reflection, so the problem was solved.

Through the class, we got reading assignments as “[Bird by Bird](http://engl210-picetti.wikispaces.umb.edu/file/view/Lamott_Bird%2Bby%2BBird.pdf), [How can you create fiction when reality comes to call](http://partners.nytimes.com/library/books/092799chute-writing.html), [Zen in the art of writing](http://www.sabatinomangini.com/uploads/4/5/9/6/4596832/zen_in_the_art_of_writing.pdf).” These three reading was about how to write things. Just simply, gives us instructions with their own examples. We learned the steps of drafts as shitty first draft, cleaned up second draft, and finished and organized third draft. I used to write the short summary of paragraphs on the margin next to the paragraph, when I read the assignment or important paper, to not lose myself. And I learned from the reading assignment that I can draw a simple drawing or doodle to symbolize the summary. For other readings as “[Picturing the personal essay](https://www.creativenonfiction.org/online-reading/picturing-personal-essay-visual-guide), [What is creative nonfiction](https://www.creativenonfiction.org/what-is-creative-nonfiction), [Everyone knew that I was gay, except my brother](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/brian-kennedy/everyone-knew-i-was-gay-e_b_3769514.html), [My name is Margaret](http://davidgarethw-books-b.wikispaces.com/My%2BName%2Bis%2BMargaret), [The Glass Castle](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/13/books/chapters/0313-1st-walls.html?_r=0), [Miracle woman](http://www.oprah.com/world/Excerpt-From-The-Immortal-Life-of-Henrietta-Lacks_1)”, they all helped me in different parts to understand about what is creative nonfiction and how to write my own creative nonfiction, what is showing and telling scenes and how can we fine which one is which, and literary devices as foreshadowing, metaphor, similes, and juxtaposition. I know what foreshadowing, metaphor, and similes are but I was confused with juxtaposition. However from the midterm conference, Mr. Mangini explained me about juxtaposition and now I understand that “juxtaposition” is the literary term that we use when we put different things together in text, to give greater impact to the readers. For example, we can find the big juxtaposition at the video “[Potty-Mouthed Princesses Drop F—Bombs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QZ44fmMAxs).” Because in this video, young girls with the princess dress keep saying curse words. Usually princess costume and curse word is not matching well. In fact, many people think it’s totally opposite. Also they used the young girls to show that when the people watching that video they can get more shock then when adult women speaking curse words. And we can say that the director used juxtaposition to give better impact to people who watched that advertisement.

For the writing part, we start to write our own creative nonfiction, reflective letter, blog posts and I-Search Paper. For blog posts, we wrote reflections and other important assignment that recall what we learned through class and using our own example to show that we understood the lecture and in the right track. For my reflective letter, I kept read my blog posts and notes from class to write the things that we covered during class and homework that we did. I made few drafts for my reflective letter and I try to write in honest writing to show what I understand and didn’t understand. In my I-Search Paper, I chose my topic as “Is it unhealthy when we raise baby with pets?” And I start to find my articles. After I found my articles, I read and find the rhetorical analysis from the articles. First when I start to write my paper, I didn’t understand well about the format but I read the professor’s outline over and over, and I figured out what he wants and finished the paper. However, for my creative nonfiction essay, it was hard to write. Because when I went to the midterm conference with my papers, I need to fix a lot of things from the paper. Because I wrote some paragraphs that were not related with the thesis and looks like make the paper too long and bored. Therefore I needed to delete the unnecessary paragraphs and rewrite more paragraphs. But this essay assignment gave me many lessons throughout writing such as what kind of things that I need to focus on when I write creative nonfiction, how to write creative nonfiction essay.

After I’m done with my class, I feels like that I earned lots of different information of subject named “English.” I learned the things what I didn’t know before, recall the things that I already knew, and even learned more and be clear of the things that I knew but not really detailed. Therefore I feel that I learned a lot from this class and probably will miss this class and the professor.