Chelsea St. Cyr

English 12

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My Biggest Accomplishment Yet

 Do you know what it feels like to work so hard at something and then look back at it with pride and contentment once it is finished? As an artist who’s learning and incorporating new skills, I feel like that all the time. Usually, I get an idea in my head that looks so perfect. Then, I, excited, start on it as soon as I possibly can. Most people don’t realize we don’t create beautiful pictures within a matter of seconds or minutes. Almost all of the ones I do take so much time, effort, and concentration over a matter of *days*. Only after I am done with it do I realize that all of my exertion was worth it just to see the fruit of my graciously given talent. Working on my weebly this quarter felt exactly the same way since all of my labor produced good results.

 The first part of putting together my weebly was picking the right essays that best displayed my writing skills. Unlike the other quarters, I had a lot to choose from for the cross-curricular essay. The good thing about all of them is that they all had to do with research. Through this, I incorporated what I learned about researching from English class into Reformed Theology, Physics, and American Government. Nearly all of my essays had several quotes that I pulled from other websites. The great evidence I found is what made these essays stand out, and that is why I chose them. My lab report was the only one without quotes, but I chose it over the other lab report I did because this one was more concise. Another reason why I chose “Blowing Up Balloons” rather than “Specific Heat of Metal” is that it was more fun.

 The last of my essays, the final draft of one of my English essays, was more trifling to revise rather than challenging. There were only simple mistakes I caught while I was rereading it, so it wasn’t that hard to revise it. One of the smallest yet most misleading mistakes I made was not having the word “it.” I found that mistake in two consecutive sentences and immediately corrected it. Secondly, it occurred to me when I was midway done rereading it that I was using the present tense and the past tense throughout my entire essay. Once I finished reading the entire essay, I start to go back to the top again to change all the present tense verbs to past tense verbs. The last blunder I tweaked was the wording of a few of my sentences. I changed the sentence from wordy and awkward to flowing and clear.

 I made a lot of accomplishments this quarter. One of my accomplishments was applying in text citations and quotes outside the English class and into my other classes. Another was mastering conciseness. Usually, my previous essays were so long and wordy that took away from the argument. The long sentences made it harder for the reader to understand what I was trying to say. That problem is nowhere to be found in my science lab report or any of my English essays. Thirdly, I made myself aware of little mistakes that can make a big difference if I overlook them. These include pronouns and tenses.

 Based on the little mistakes I made and the huge improvements I made this quarter, I’d say that my growth as a writer has increased rapidly. I’m proud of myself for the several triumphs I made in all of my essays. If I keep the same outlook that the finished product is worth all the labor, then that means I am be ready to write college papers. It’ll give me the motivation I need to not only complete the assignment, but to write it to the best of my abilities. Looking back now, I see that my portfolio from all my previous years in high school up to now has been preparing me for college. With each new quarter and each new school year, I’ve been getting better and attributing new writing dexterities. However, like my cross-curricular essays, I want to take it even further. I want to apply this outlook to all areas of life so that I can give everything my best.