Brianna Lopez

English 113A

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Dylan Altman

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Dear professor Altman,

 My name is Brianna Lopez and this is my first year attending California State University Northridge let alone taken an English course. This semester I’ve done many writings, discussions, readings, and collaborations, in which has helped me grow in this aspect. Throughout my writing process I believe my best essay has been on “Maus,” a book written by Art Spiegelman. I spoke about the abuse of power and fear that is in Poland, in which affects Jewish characters, the rules of space and how it affects the diversity in communities. That was my best writing assignment because not only did I talk about what happened in Poland, but I was able to relate it to the United States of America. The connection I found in both places was fear, which I reflected that theme throughout my essay. Another essay that I like has been on a controversial topic, pushing the age limit on driving until 18. I chose this topic because I have seen high school students get into accidents, in which becomes a safety hazard. I brainstormed ideas on why teens should be able to drive or not and when making that list everything came into play, I knew exactly what to write, it was just the matter of putting everything together and making sense of it all. It ended up being one of my favorite writings because I had adapted writing skills I wasn’t accustomed to before. I stated my reasons on why teens shouldn’t be able to drive as well as stating a counterclaim which made my argument stronger.

 My essay on *MAUS* was not an easy one, as I rewrote this essay at least three times when thinking it was completed. At first, I took both locations, the U.S and Poland, and put all my ideas together. It was hard to capture the gist of it all when there was too much going on and not enough information about one location. I had to start over and separate the locations, which meant coming up with more ideas and more information. As I separated it, I realized I was talking about the same thing over and over again. I didn’t come up with any ideas nor information, I just expanded my point in each paragraph. I had to come up with new topics so I wouldn’t be as repetitive, yet I needed something that I was still able to tie it all together. I finally pushed through and fixed the mistakes I knew were fixable. I also had to change some awkward sentences, analyzed some details and tying each paragraph back to my thesis statement.

 In my other essay I argued on why the age requirement should be 18 rather than 16. This essay was difficult, but not as difficult as the essay previously mentioned. I brainstormed before writing my essay so I knew what to write about, but gathering information was something I wasn’t a big fan of. There was a lot of information as to why teenagers should drive at a young age. Looking through websites I took a quote that supported 16-year-olds driving and automatically went against it. Although gathering information may be hard at times, I couldn’t contradict myself in any way, so I was stuck with the information I was able to provide. This is essay wasn’t much of a problem to write because of the material and writing we have been going over throughout the course.

 During this past semester this class has increased my writing expectations exponentially. I have set myself to higher standards when it comes to writing an essay. I have learned how to construct a strong thesis statement, how to form a well thought out argument and rebuttal, as well as tying the introduction paragraph to the body without the main idea being sidetracked. I believe that this exposure will benefit me anywhere I go, from writing letters to an old friend to emailing my future boss.

Sincerely,

Brianna Lopez