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My Life as a Writer

According to Brande (2009), a writer is a person who comes up with creative content or essays that may be of interest to the public or for personal use. In my life there are two things that are as slightly fulfilling as writing. One of them is reading books and the other is capturing moments through photographs. I love writing to the point I could write short memos in my phone as skeleton reminders of what I experience in my daily activities. In essence, my life as a writer has molded me into the person I am in the way I talk, dress, or even conduct myself among my peers. Well, my other two passions, that is, reading books and photography, have in the same way made me learn how to express things in a different light. A picture is worth a thousand words, and I also cannot develop new writing styles without reading the books of the many talented writers out there.

As much as I love writing, any time I am asked to write an article, I go into panic mode. My mind is never settled until an idea is finally printed in it. The adrenaline rush keeps me alert as it makes me stick to the topic that I am writing and almost instantly takes me to that virtual world especially when writing non-fiction pieces.

I have found writing classes to be very helpful to me. The guidance from the facilitators and the peers have led me to look into specific areas of writing. I consider them as the watchtowers that I need to set sail for my writing ship. In the same time, it keeps me from trying out many things which somehow may be considered as wasting time, but to others, it is exploration. I like specializing in areas that make me appreciate my writing skills. I have gained new skills and others have been sharpened. I learnt that the best way to know the quality of my writing is to first read it aloud to myself and then share with my close friends who will give their feedback when I ask of their opinions about the grammar and the ideas used. It has become part of me that nowadays in my room, I burn the midnight oil when writing articles and wake up very early in the morning to read aloud what I wrote. This practice has made me devoted to writing with an aim to impact the audience and have a feel of what message will be delivered when they read my articles.

I have seen major improvements in my writing when I analyse what reviews I got on my first articles. My classmates and friends thought the plot I created was too predictable and lacked creativity. I used to feel discouraged but soon I realized that they were indeed helping me become a better writer. I continued writing pieces and committed myself to doing what they had asked in the previous reviews and soon they were appreciating my articles and even commenting on the ways the message was delivered.

Do I have weaknesses in writing? Of course I do. I have found that before I deliver a point, I use too many words that often than not distract the reader from the getting what I meant. I have also found that this goes hand in hand with organizing my article. Sometimes, when delivering important points, I may cluster them in one paragraph or have long and complex sentences that make my work crowded and in some way, simple. My creativity also vary, although I take it as a writing experience, because I do not always deliver the same quality of creativity or catchy articles. I have not control how to carry the messages from my thoughts into words perfectly. I struggle to explain what I really meant when my friends proofread my articles. The structure of my sentences is also lacking but I am working to get the proper way to write concise and error-free sentences.

I have learnt that practice makes perfect. The plenty mistakes I have made and still make, have exposed me to positive criticisms and I have been advised on how to work around them. I fear that I may not be as good as other writers, but I still explore writing with the purpose of sharing with the others what experiences have shaped me or can also shape their thinking. I realized that this is part of my life because whenever I am invited or I attend an event, I usually took time to describe what I noticed, the practices I attend and services I received. It has helped me develop my description of activities and also helps me remember the suggestions.

Why do I consider writing so special to me? It makes me feel complete. It brings ideas to life, it records experiences from my point of view and it also makes me share with the world what life is about. This culture and now my lifestyle have made me express myself to larger audiences and with tools that can be interpreted in different ways. It has also free me from keeping to myself what I know can change in other people. I have seen it many times but it most vividly when I was asked to write an article and read it at an award ceremony that was happening at my local school. I tried getting inspiration from online sources and from what people would give as advice, but my heart was not settled.

I decided to write from my experiences and shared what I had learned in the years before my high school. I had an easy time delivering the speech because it came from my heart. I have read fictional novels, mostly the works of Sidney Sheldon, and his quote that keeps me going whenever I feel tired is, “Don't give up. There are too many nay-sayers out there who will try to discourage you. Don't listen to them. The only person who can make you give up is yourself.”

Reference

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Brande, D. (2009). *Becoming a writer*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co.

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