Daria Letcher

My family put a lot of pressure on education because of my family history. My great grandmother and many of my family members grew up in a time of segregation when education was not easily accessible. My great grandmother was not able to attend school after the third grade but she taught herself as she grew up. Education being so important was not a shock because only my aunt has graduated from college. With so much of my family growing up when it was hard to become educated they always pushed me to become try my best. They also pushed me to get involved with everything I could so I was well-rounded. So I remember always having pressure on me to be the best I could be.

My earliest memory of reading or writing is in the third grade. When I was a child I would read at least one book a day if not more than one. I fell in love with reading at a young age and always wanted to read more challenging books. By the end of the year I was reading high school level books. I loved reading until my mom decided I should start writing about what I read. She would want me to write about any book I read. My family put a lot of pressure on education at an early age because of where I was fortunate enough to attend school. While other kids were reading and writing for fun I was being forced by my mom to write solely about what book I read that day. I enjoyed reading but when it came to writing down my thoughts and opinions on the book I dreaded reading the next book because I did not want to write about it. I would argue with my mom and she continued to say it would help me as I get older. I eventually just tried to write what she wanted me to but it would never be good enough. She would say I did not write enough and that she wanted more from me as a third grader. This is when I started to not like writing because nothing was ever good enough and I felt like if I could not please her then I definitely could not please my teachers. As I got older and writing became more complex and difficult I began to struggle because of my past with writing. I thought I would eventually get over this difficulty with writing but then I got to seventh grade still struggling. In the seventh grade I began to put off writing assignments until they would become late and I was forced to do it. It seemed like I would push myself into a corner every time there was an assignment. At this point I did not really enjoy reading because I knew writing would come after. As seventh grade went on I began to miss assignments and stop reading the books because I knew I would have to write throughout the duration of reading the book or at the completion of a book. I also knew another one was coming after that. When my grade became very low I had to have a meeting with Ms. Bryant, my English teacher. During this meeting we discussed ways to improve my writing until she said “You are not good at writing and shouldn’t even try anymore.” At that moment I truly believed that I wasn’t good at it and went home to tell my mom. My mom was livid and shouting words of profanity. She called my principal the next day to set up a meeting where Ms. Bryant would get in a lot of trouble. After that Ms. Bryant no longer graded my papers but my principal did. While I still wasn’t making great grades on papers, I was able to continue attending my school. After leaving middle school I was able to become more confident in my writing ability when I started receiving better grades based on how I was actually performing. As my grades started improving so did my reading. I was beginning to enjoy reading again when I didn’t think I would enjoy what used to be my pastime.

To: Stephanie, Brandon, Ronnie

From: Daria

10/2/17

Regarding my literary narrative

I chose this moment because it was the one that I found it easiest to elaborate on. It took me a while to decide what direction I should go with it but I still have some organization of my ideas to work on. Going from the handwritten note to typing was not easy for me to do. Going from the literacy moment to the narrative was the easiest part for me because I had my ideas planned out already. I need to expand the beginning of this narrative. I also need to work on the organization of the moment itself and add more breaks to the writing. I feel I need help on the large paragraph because it is not organized and is all over the place.