Nestor Tumaquip

EN 202-001

Reflection

“You’re nothing but a second-rate, trying hard, copycat,” Lavinia said, a character from a movie called “Bituing Walang Ningning.” Why have I said that? Another example is, “I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside.” During high school, when I wrote an essay or a letter, I usually quoted songs or movies. English was one of my weakest subjects in the past and still echoing in my mind are the mistakes I always committed every time I presented in front of class or did an assignment. Until now, English is still a very challenging course for me. Despite the problems, I will continue to pursue expressing my thoughts through writing, properly expressing my mind without thinking of any of the hindrances that might stop me. Despite English being my second language, I am still dreaming of writing a story about my life experiences as a person, husband, student, and a father.

My first college experience was from the University of the East, Manila branch, taking up a Bachelor of Science and Business Administration major in Management and a minor in Accounting. As a working student, I took this course for almost 5 years. Unfortunately, due to two incomplete subjects I did not get my diploma but only my transcript of records. Presently, I am third-year working student in the Northern Marianas College taking up an Associate with emphasis in Education and hoping to pursue Elementary Education in the future. Perhaps, teaching is going to be my last career in the last chapter of my life. I am presently taking up EN 202 under the wing of Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson. Under her tutelage, I already have some experiences of teaching styles, I knew that it was hard, and challenging, but I learned a lot from her. Her style of teaching is like a “chess grandmaster teaching a new student of high-profile techniques and strategies.” It may sound confusing but it’s true. She was my professor in English for the third time here at Northern Marianas College and I know in my heart that everything that she taught me will be useful in my endeavor as a future teacher in the Public School System.

The topic I chose is very important to all of us because it will affect the whole cycle of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands community from the government, Public School System, parents, and most of all, our students. It was my obsession to know how the Free Meal Program is working in the CNMI. For more than three years working in the Public School System and Child Nutrition Program, I always observed as each day the trash bins at public schools filled up with whole pieces of fruit, untouched pre-packed meals, and unopened milk cartoons and juices. Thousands of taxpayer dollars, towards feeding needy children, were being wasted.

In writing this research, I have learned most using a narrative essay because I can tell a story about real life experiences. At first, there was little information I got from any local news articles regarding the free meal program. I sought out the help of my boss, Mr. Dale Roberts, who is the Director of the Child Nutrition Program here in the CNMI and he provided me with a helpful link. Also, Mr. Crawford from the Northern Marianas Library taught us how to properly use different research engines. I printed out all the important information I needed in order to read all the topics about the free meal program. If I am going to book bind it, I can make one book about the free meal program. I was surprised to know the information about the budget of the U.S. government spent on school lunches. The National School Lunch Program fed 30 million children each school day in 2014 and cost $12.7 billion. The federal government spent another $3.7 billion in 2014 to feed about 14 million children through the School Breakfast Program. A total amount of $16.4 billion per school year while a total $1.2 billion of food was wasted per school year.

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Besides research papers that we needed to finish per weekly schedule, we were given different kinds of quizzes, other essays such as an abstract essay, impromptu essay, persuasive essay, and process essay, a power point presentation, Turitin, Weebly, starquize, and more reading materials for research. An excellent knowledge I have learned is the use of the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style and format for academic documents such as scholarly journal articles and books.

Lastly, I always cherished all the experiences and knowledge I have learned from my mentor and instructor, Dr. Anderson. As a future educator, I inherited from her a priceless gift, “the art of teaching,” which I can use and share to other people specially to my future students. I will also not forget the patience and understanding of PROA tutor, Ms. Patricia San Nicolas, who was always there with me since the beginning of the class. Even though she’s in Tinian, she always answered my call. Also to El John, who always asked me if I had a problem in my work assignments. You will always be in my heart and be a part of my life wherever I go, thank you very much.