

Dear Future Me,

I hope you have continued to develop our relationship with writing and creativity beyond the academic space. You should be done with school by now, so hopefully you have begun to become more self-expressive not only in your writing, but in the way you live your life. In English 110C, Professor Bradley emphasized breaking down the structural constraints that K-12 education taught us, and I hope you have continued to break down those constraints to become a more creative and expressive writer and person.

Key lessons you learned in English 110C include the importance of clarity and rhetorical strategies. Unlike most English classes, we had the opportunity to express ourselves how we wanted to in our writing and make our own rhetorical choices that influenced what the reader felt when they read our writing. In this class and as college continued for you, I hope you learned to value authentic expression and creative decisions in your writing. Things, from what font you use in your writing to the words you use, affect the emotions of your audience, and understanding that concept will help you with all the writing that you have to do in the future.

As a communicator, I learned that I need to be more clear, concise, and assertive. In a lot of my writing, including all three of the major essays from this class, I struggled with getting my points across clearly. I often talked around the topic and was not direct with what I had to say in order for readers to understand my point. I was still writing in the mindset that I had to make the word count and make sure I met the requirements when I really needed to make sure my writing met the goal that it set out to do. Whether that's convincing the reader of my opinion or reflecting on my life, the goal with the writing in class was to use rhetorical strategies to effectively express my opinions or point of view, not just write 1000-word essays. Take that lesson with you as you expand your writing from just an academic setting. It's not about just meeting the requirements; it's about using your writing or communication skills to connect with an audience, however you see fit.

From Your Past Self

P.S. You better have some more money ;)