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Reflection Essay

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Learning Through My Lens

Scantrons, standardized tests, and multiple-choice questions. These have been what I defined school as. One answer, right or wrong. I've always struggled to think creatively on my own. In most of my work, coming up with a topic that is unique is often the hardest part for me. I've always been good at understanding topics that have been taught to me and not as good at coming up with my own, just as the data presents. I've always been a very structured thinker, and in my opinion, that's partially why I chose the major I chose. My thinking habits and patterns have affected me in small and very big ways, and as I continue to get older, I cannot let myself become a victim of the way I think.

Throughout my years in the K-12 education system, I became accustomed to doing the bare minimum. I was always naturally smart and could do well in most classes without much effort. I was smart enough to follow the teacher's instructions to a T and get a good grade. As the years progressed, that's all that school became to me, especially English class. Word limit, essay structure, and perfect grammar kept me in a box that, over time, I got very comfortable in. The systems that were set sucked the creativity out of me, making me just another student. This was instilled in me, even as a young kid. Some of my earliest memories are of my dad, who was a former teacher, showing me flash cards of vocabulary words that I had to memorize.

Experiences like these turned me into a linear thinker. It's hard for me to branch out with my ideas and think creatively. Now that I have a better understanding of why I have been

learning this way throughout my educational journey, I can focus more on being creative. Before classes started, if you had asked me what I wanted to get out of English Composition 110C, I would have told you an A. Now, I view the journey I can embark on in this class as something more than just a grade in the gradebook. I view it as an opportunity to become a more well-rounded thinker. Not thinking of just the quickest path to an A, but diving deeper and thinking about how I can put my own personality into all my work, to better express my thoughts and communicate with others.