

Interviewer: [Chuckles] Got it. Okay. To what would you attribute your growth as a writer, your greater confidence as a writer?

Interviewee: Well, I had a teacher my freshman year, [instructor's name], and he's in the creative writing department. I think, at first, he kicked my butt on one of my first papers, and I was like, "Oh, crap. This is gonna be a bad year already."

Interviewer: What course is this?

Interviewee: This is a freshman writing course, English 125.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: I did really poorly on that, and I talked with him, and I said, "Well, what have I gotta do?" He said, "I feel like you trying to write this, and you are reinforced to write this. Just write it for me as you would say it." That was what helped make the differences that I stopped realizing that I need to write something formal, and I can just write what I would say, or whatever I wanted, and it would be easier like that.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Then papers were easier to write. I could get them done quicker or I would be less stressed because I knew that I wasn't being forced, and that professor wasn't looking for some strict style he was just looking for you to make your point so it was the content, not the style.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: That was a big shift is when I realized that I stopped looking at style, and it's more about the content.