

## Cover Letter

This year, I have written a number of writings in both English 101 and English IV (honors). Along with my prior writing skills, I have been able to use techniques and styles that I have learned in these classes and apply them to my writings. I have learned a lot about my self as a writer, and I have seen my writing skills improve during the course. I enjoyed all of the assignments because we were given a lot of freedom while choosing topics to write about. Writing about topics that interest me made it easy for me to compose each paper to my best ability. Also, I have noticed that I have become more comfortable applying the writing process while taking this course. Overall, I believe that I have made huge improvements in all parts of my writing ability as a result of this course.

The first paper I chose to include in my portfolio was "My Habits as a Writer". This was our first assigned journal in which we were asked to describe habits we have as writers. I enjoyed writing this journal because it made me really think about things I do while writing and also about what helps me write. In this small assignment I learned a lot about myself. The first habit I pointed out about myself was listening to music while I write. This is something I have done for a long time. Music helps me stay focus on the task at hand, and it keeps my mind form wandering to different subjects. Another habit, I pointed out in the journal, is always writing my first draft of an essay on paper. The reason I developed this habit was to force my self to read and make corrections to my papers while I retyped them.

The second paper I chose for my portfolio was my description essay, "Countdown to Game Time". This was the first formal essay we were assigned. I was very nervous about writing this paper, knowing it would be my first college grade I received. I didn't know what to expect so I put a lot of time into following the guidelines given for the paper closely. I was

relieved and proud of myself after receiving my grade. Composing this paper helped me develop description skills which I have applied in all of my other writings. In the paper I described the events leading up to the start of a football game. The essay began with pre-game warm-ups and ended with the first kickoff. Writing the paper was easy for me because I have a lot of experience dealing with the subject.

I chose to include my narrative essay, "First Impression" as my third portfolio entry. I chose to describe one of the my proudest moments in this essay. Composing the essay was rather easy because I spoke about the events that took place during a huge rivalry football game. I enjoyed writing the essay because it allowed me to express how I felt about my accomplishment, and gave me a chance to relive the experience. I believe I did a great job of telling my story and explaining the importance of the event in m life.

The final paper I chose to include in my portfolio is a research paper, "Immortal Shakespeare". This was the most challenging paper I had to write in my life. The subject of the research paper was, William Shakespeare, who I personally enjoy reading and learning about. I put a lot of effort into composing this paper, and following the guidelines set up for it. I chose to include <sup>this essay</sup> the paper because it shows my abilities as a writer. The paper gave me a chance to take a deep look into the life and career of one of the greatest writers. I learned a lot of useful information while doing research for the paper, and by using the skills I learned in English 101, I was able to make an excellent grade on the paper. Composing the research paper was an experience I will never forget.

I have seen my writing skills improve over the course of the year. Using the skills I have learned, has mad composing essays easier for me. I no longer worry about the length of papers or how I should format them, because now I apply what I have learned about the writing process to

complete any writing assignments. My new understanding of the writing process allows me to enjoy writing papers and fully express my thoughts about the subject. After completing this course, I will be confident about completing and writing assignment I am given in the future.