L. Do

Ms. Reichmuth

Core 7

2 June 2022

Academic Success

Walking into Ms. Reichmuth’s class on the first day of school was already a challenge for me. I had never been a model student, being riddled with irresponsibility and no control over how much I talked. But coming towards the end of the year, I had still not become a model student, but I had improved on many of the factors in which I had lacked at the beginning of the year. Firstly, the PBL’s, or Project Based Learning, were very helpful to me as a student and a person. Furthermore, writing essays and paragraphs in MLA formats thatI had never used before were also very important, allowing me to discipline myself by only writing in one way. Lastly, Ms. Reichmuth helped us organize our time very well when in class and outside of class. In conclusion, Ms. Reichmuth’s class was very unique because of PBL’s, MLA, and learning time management.

To begin with, PBL’s were very impactful on me because of writing essays. Writing each essay in a different way and on a different subject, which were all unique to us, was very exciting and good to learn. It personally helped me learn about a specific subject and I was always very happy that I was the only one in the class studying that specific topic. Next, we also had to do presentations, which helped me with my confidence and my presentation skills, as well as helping me with eye contact with the whole class. Finally, we could also be helped by other students during peer reviews, where we would help correct each other’s papers and outlines. The writing of essays and presentations were always difficult, but writing in an unlearned format made it even more challenging.

MLA format is a very hard format rto learn for many reasons. College of San Mateo Library states that MLA format helps students stop plagiarism and makes it easier for teachers to read their essays.First of all, writing in the MLA format was very tough because of the Works Cited. Citing websites that we had used was hard to learn to put into the Works Cited with specific places to put periods and commas, as well as needing to cite the right amount in the essay itself, and cite whenever there were numbers in my facts. Also, we had to use a specific font and size, which were always Times New Roman and Arial, which were always size 12. We had to use formats like double spaces and it made it especially hard, because I could not remember all the formats, so I had to write them down whenever I began an essay. Last of all, we had to use names and dates correctly, especially in headings. Our headings always consisted of our name, Ms. Reichmuth, our core class, and the date. I always had a lot of trouble with the date because I could not remember which months were abbreviated and which ones were to write the full month name. Even with MLA, however, Ms. Reichmuth taught us how to use our time well.

Time management was one of the most important factors that helped me become a better student in seventh grade. To start off, we almost always had very stressful due dates. Final drafts were due very soon after rough drafts, but Ms. Reichmuth helped us understand what we could do to not do too much work at home. Secondly, for the majority of the year, we had conflicting subjects, having to focus on both social studies and language arts, needing to finish History Alive packets and PBL essays at the same time. But Ms. Reichmuth helped us and allowed us to finish them during class and change due dates so that it was easier for us to get better grades on them. Conclusively, Ms. Reichmuth always told us to use our time wisely during class, as sometimes I would be fooling around and talking to friends, but I later learned that doing my work during class would allow me to have fun later on in the day instead of working past my bedtime to finish essays. The teaching of how to manage our time helped me a lot not only in Ms. Reichmuth’s class, but in my other subjects as well.

Ms. Reichmuth’s class was very special, because she taught us new PBL topics, how to use MLA formats, and how to manage our time successfully. First, the Project Based Learning topics helped us learn about how to write essays but also about our chosen topic. Moreover, learning about how to use MLA helped me with self-discipline because it showed me how to stick to only one strict format and also allowed me to learn how to cite my websites. To conclude, learning how to manage my time well was one of the most important life skills I will ever learn. At the beginning of the year, Ms. Reichmuth read us a book called Oh the Places You’ll Go! and said the one quote that would change my mentality for the rest of the year: “On and on you will hike and I know you’ll hike far and face up to your problems whatever they are…and will you succeed? Yes you will indeed! Kid, you’ll move mountains!”

Works Cited

“MLA Citing and Formatting.” *College of San Mateo Library.* 2 May 2022. Web. 1 June 2022.

Reichmuth, Cristin. Interview. Conducted by Linh Do. 31 May 2022.

Geisel, Theodore Seuss. *Oh The Places You’ll Go!* New York City : Random House Inc, 1990. Print.