

N. Heller

Ms. Reichmuth

Core 7

2 June 2022

Greatly Succeeding

Sitting in Ms. Reichmuth's seventh grade core class on the first day of school, I had low expectations and barely any interest in what I thought I would be learning this year. More unvaried essays, excruciating lectures, and humiliating presentations. However, as she sat in her ridiculously tall chair, in front of her desk, crowded with inspirational statements, she began to read us a children's book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*. "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose," says Dr. Seuss. Realizing now, up until this point I have rejected the elating significance of educational value, perhaps this class will be exceptional after all. Now, leaving this class to continue my academic journey, I know this class will forever be classified as remarkable whenever I look back at it. First (A1) and foremost, the boundless opportunities provided by Ms. Reichmuth exceeds all previous classes, giving immense freedom and individuality. Furthermore (A2), as a consequence of this class, I have greatly improved in numerous academic fields, such as presentation skills and the ability to construct an essay. Thirdly (A3), the extensive connections I have made throughout this year has made profound impacts on my seventh grade impression. Ms. Reichmuth's core class has shaped my learning experience through opportunities (A1), improvement (A2), and connections (A3).

A1: The endless opportunities Ms. Reichmuth's class offers certainly exhilarates the seventh grade experience. To begin (C1), throughout our Project Based Learning units, every student has the freedom to choose, research, and write about topics they feel passionate about.

Unlike other curriculums, Ms. Reichmuth gives students as much independence and self-sufficiency as possible. These real-world topics allow students to educate themselves on issues concerning our society at the present moment. Additionally (C2), the students in Ms. Reichmuth's class had the opportunity to conduct interviews with prominent and influential people that related to the topic we chose. The person I interviewed, Julie Viscuso, a patient of systemic lupus erythematosus, made it clear that no matter the obstacle we face, with enough effort and support, anything can be overcome. Ms. Reichmuth also supplied us with significant interviews such as Dr. Mordecai, Mrs. Wedemeyer, and Dr. Laurie Leventhal, all individuals who are very knowledgeable in their field of study, greatly impacting our projects. Lastly (C3), using our comprehension of our topic, we had the chance to write, and send, a letter to someone that is greatly authoritative and could do something about the predicament we studied. Fortunately, this considerably heightened my understanding of how much I am capable of affecting. Not only have opportunities (A1) contributed to my glorious experience in Ms. Reichmuth's class, the improvement (A2) I have seen in myself has been tremendous.

A2: Over the course of my seventh grade year, I have noticed vast improvements in numerous areas of my academic career. To start (C1), my presentation skills have been enhanced to a greater extent. From stuttering in my speech, I have made mistakes, learned, and grown in this class over and over again. Taken from *The World According to Mister Rogers*, "Little by little we human beings are confronted with situations that give us more and more clues that we are not perfect," says Mister Rogers. No matter how many times I could practice that speech in my room, or in front of my mother, it will never be perfect, but that's how we learn. Through stumbling countless times over again, I have improved each time in my public speaking, earning myself more pride than pity no matter the grade I receive. Moreover (C2), my writing and ability

to construct a proper essay have substantially ameliorated. The capability to communicate effectively through writing is a great power I wish to obtain. Through this class, I feel I have trekked so far forward in meeting my goal. In high school and college, I will use Ms. Reichmuth's tips and tricks, as they have been nothing but helpful in my journey. Undoubtedly, she has prepared me, and the rest of my classmates well, assuring our success when faced with future challenges. Finally (C3), not only are educational traits crucial to success, so is being a social, good-natured human being. Certainly, I have been taught countless lessons that will define my personality, morals, and friendships. Assured, I have become a better person through this class, as I have grown to be more confident, passionate, and independent in the best possible ways. Along with my improvement (A2), the connections (A3) I have made will forever alter my view on my experience in Ms. Reichmuth's class.

A3: Ultimately, connections I have seen and made throughout my seventh grade year have had a monumental impact on my impressions concerning Ms. Reichmuth's class. Firstly (C1), the overall experience of the classroom is extremely comforting. Never have I entered Ms. Reichmuth's class feeling anxious or overwhelmed. The friendly environment radiating off of everyone in the room always made me sense that I was safe and acknowledged for who I was as a person. Absolutely no one was excluding others, conversing about malicious topics, or judging anyone for any reason. Secondly (C2), the exceeding inspiration and enthusiasm shown by Ms. Reichmuth and the students day after day never fails to uplift me whenever I feel swamped. I always have the motivation, whether that's from the teacher or my fellow peers, to do my finest. Always there for each other, this class will never back down from going above and beyond expectations. This inducement, provided by Ms. Reichmuth, will certainly produce more engaged, prepared students that will succeed in not only academics but life as well. To end (C3),

no class I have ever attended has held to as high citizenship, sportsmanship, and ethical standards. Definitely, our teacher never fails to work us and hold us to such outrageous qualities. However, these challenges are beneficial and will give us a great advantage over the rest of our peers in the many years to come. Even if it was difficult, I would do it again, just to watch these connections become what they are now. The connections I have made and seen throughout this one year will always be held close to my heart.

Through opportunities (A1), improvement (A2), and connections (A3), Ms. Reichmuth's class has paved my way to succeed in the years to come. Opportunities (A1), an eminent freedom and notable privilege, is only one of the many methods this class provides to ensure your success in high school, college, and life beyond academics. The power to choose your own fascinating topic, conduct interviews with those greatly informed to help you recognize information beyond your knowledge, and to take action by sending letters to highly influential people is what distinguishes this class from the others. Foremost, the profound improvement (A2) I have seen in myself has been stupendous. Noticeably, I have grown greatly in many educational fields due to Ms. Reichmuth's harsh grading, but kind nature all the less. Without the challenge, it would not have been possible to learn or even become a better person. Last, this class would not have been the same without the connections (A3) I have made with my peers, the wonderful people I have spent this school year with. So many new friendships were made, brought together and molded by this group. The comforting and friendly environment always made me feel secure, along with the inspiration and enthusiasm radiating from everyone, even at nine o'clock in the morning. Walking into the room, I never saw anything but citizenship, sportsmanship, and righteous ethical behavior. This year was far from any other year. Certainly, although it was extremely difficult, I know Ms. Reichmuth has prepared me well with all she has to offer.

Walking into this class, at the beginning of the year, might have been a nightmare, but walking out is no different. Leaving this class is a nightmare, because I dread leaving. I dread leaving these moments, these bonds, and these people that made this year go by all too fast. From *Oh the Places You'll Go*, as Dr. Suess says, "You're off to great places, today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so...get on your way!"

Works Cited

Dr. Suess. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*. Random House, 22 Jan. 1990. Print.

Rogers, Fred. *The World According to Mister Rogers*. Hachette Books, 8 Oct. 2003. Print.

Viscuso, Julie. Interview. By Norah Heller. 12 Feb. 2022.