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English Composition 1001

3 September 2019

What is Good Writing

Many people in the world have different views on what good writing is. When asking three different age groups, high school, college, and people outside of school, what good writing is, there were many different answers. Even though there were many different answers from everyone there was one general answer. Most everyone that I asked gave the basic answer, it must be able to grasp the reader's attention.

When asking a high school student about what good writing is, I was thinking that it would be the same as the pre thoughts I had on what good writing is. Surprisingly, the interviewee didn't say anything about having a grammatically correct paper. She said that good writing is when you convey a message to an audience easily. Good writing to her is when the reading can connect with their emotions whether it be happy, sad or angry. The senior in high school gave a strong answer that writing is wanting to grasp the attention of anyone the writing piece come to.

After talking with two college students about what good writing is, both students gave similar answers. When interviewing a junior in college she answered, "the reader should be able to understand the topics and should have a good flow with descriptive words." Something that caught my eyes is that she said good writing doesn't have to be just essay or school papers. She

understood that good writing can be used in text, articles, novels, applications, marketing, etc. When asking a freshman in college she also answered that writing must make sense to the person reading. The freshman also said that good writing should leave the reader wanting more or being able to think more about the topic that was being read. The difference between the junior and the freshman in college was that they each differed with the mature rate of what good writing was. The freshman did not understand that good writing does not have to be just for a school paper. The junior in college knew that good writing can take place anywhere in someone's life. Good writing can come simply in a restaurant menu to a best-selling novel.

The people I interviewed that are outside of college were a little different than the students in college and high school. Firstly, both interviewees both said that good writing is easily readable. One person said that having eligible writing is important in business because having something hard to understand it makes things ten times harder. Also, other things that were mentioned was having good complete sentences that are to the point of a topic.

When I think of good writing, I think of something that is formatted correctly, with information that is factual and is from a good source. Also, I think good writing is when you have a clear topic of what the paper is about and leaving the reader wanting more. Before talking about what good writing is, I thought good writing must be in-depth and have an interesting opening paragraph. I have learned that good writing doesn't have to be long, it must be long enough to get a point across to the reader.

So far what I have found out different between college and high school is how the instructor's grade good writing. In my high school experience, the teacher would grade student work by correcting grammatical mistakes, instead of the idea of the paper. In the book, *Writing about Writing*, it gave an example of how on standardized tests it grades someone on correctness

and not the idea of the paper. Now that I have been in college for a month or so, the instructor is teaching that good writing is the idea or thought throughout the paper not just having perfect grammar.