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English 101

Professor Wood

Reflective Letter

This semester started off being easier than my first but slowly became one of the hardest due to COVID-19. My first semester was a time in my life where I was in one of the worst states of mind, I almost failed all of my courses. I wasn’t able to focus, I would sleep in class, and instead of trying to grasp the material in my courses my mind would be racing with negative thoughts. I came into English 101 this semester feeling ashamed and embarrassed. During the winter break I often asked myself how I got to this point, I always have good grades, I never fail. English has always been my best subject so I really began to contemplate whether or not I was actually ready for college. This class has taught me so much more than what was on the syllabus, this experience went far beyond what happened in the classroom and the work I put into it. Retaking English 101 and succeeding in the class has taught me that it’s ok to fail and it’s ok to be alone.

Coming into John Jay was a very uncomfortable experience, I knew nobody. I’m not from New York but I wanted to step out of my comfort zone because I knew John Jay would be extremely helpful for my future. I stepped into the Freshman Orientation feeling really uncomfortable, it seemed like everybody knew everyone somehow. I was wondering what I missed, I ended up meeting a couple of people that day however no real friendship came out of it. It was disappointing, I expected a lot more out of that day. To add fuel to the fire I went through a very messy breakup with a very toxic person, so that really added to the pain of being alone.

It was a very long and very difficult first semester that I would never wanna relive again but I came into my second semester feeling a little more optimistic. I hated the fact that I let one person ruin my mental state to the point where I failed a lot of my classes. I believed I would never recover from it but I was so wrong. While I still am alone at John Jay, my grades have definitely improved significantly. I started to accept the fact that I was alone and while some friends would be nice, I really enjoy my solitude and exploring the city at my own pace.

Soon after I started to accept the fact that it is ok to fail sometimes. The most successful people have also been through failure, and I was clearly recovering from my failure. Although this pandemic is making me revert back to my old habits, and not really trying as much as I used to when things were normal. I feel a lot better and I feel as if I will remember this experience for the rest of my life.