

December 3, 2015

Dear Katie,

Not only have you become a flexible student, your portfolio shows you are a flexible writer, moving in and out of various genres and for various audiences. It was wonderful for me to get to know you a little bit through your Community and Fences essay. Your willingness to be critical was already apparent there. You had insights that you wanted to express, and I am so glad that you had a place to express them.

Your willingness to hang out with Sallie and chat about sources and ideas was neat to witness as well. Your creativity was apparent, not only in your early essays, but also in your choice to interview Meah. Because you wanted to make your assignment fun, you were engaged and open. You say that you and students forget learning, but I don't believe this is the case for you: not when your work has this much commitment, this much development, and this much power. Not "that" but "this"! ☺ Transformative learning through problem posing does not allow for a quick release of information. I am hoping that through the bumps and bruises folks became disoriented enough, as Mezirow says, to be stronger enough to transform the conditioning of passivity.

As a human, I too am stubborn. I hold grudges and am resistant. But my policy with students is that they are just at one phase of their learning journey. They might be different on another day. So I persist longer than they resist. I'm glad you persisted so that you could get to that one day where we did the silly loop writing and you opened up to the possibilities.

You have many possibilities! I wish you the very best on your journey.

Sincerely,

*Lucia M. Eldon, PhD*

Professor of English and Humanities,

Mid Michigan Community College