May 15, 2014

Dear Reader,

 My years as a student have been some wonderful years, but not all of them. I’m glad this is my last year, but I’m also kind of sad. Each year I’ve been in school I learned something new in English. Sometimes I learned things and then forgotten them by the time the next school year came along. I know the point of learning things is to remember them but most of the time I just forget. Even though I forget most of the things, all I need is a refreshment of the information.

 English in elementary school was so simple. All you needed to know was basic stuff. The thing I liked most about English was the spelling. I used to love spelling. Every Friday I used to look forward to our spelling test. If I wasn’t good at anything else I was good at spelling things. Everything was straight forward during this portion of my life. Things changed when I got to 5th grade. In 5th grade they started to expect a lot more for us to get us ready for middle school. I hated writing essays and papers. At first, I didn’t understand why I needed to write five paragraph essays. But as I got older I started to understand why I had to do certain things.

 Middle school was a little more complex than elementary school. It wasn’t nearly as bad as English now. Middle school was the turning point of my school years. During this time we started to use more complex sentences in our essays. Simple sentences weren’t enough anymore. They wanted more from us. They were getting us ready for high school throughout my middle school years. I remember when I had to start really understanding where my commas went in the sentences. I never

really completely got the hang of commas, but I have gotten better if I do say so myself. I know I still have to work on it but I am getting better. I know I’m not perfect but I’m good enough.

 High school was the most complex so far. Once I reached high school, my view of English has changed a lot. In high school they expect you to know a lot of things already. I know I learned the information, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that I remember the things that I learned years ago. I try to commit things to memory but it doesn’t work that well for me. Besides them thinking that we remember those things we have to do a lot of inferring. I don’t like inferring things. We also have to think a lot in high school. They want us to be creative and think outside the box. I would rather them just tell me where to look at instead of me having to think a lot. I’m an intelligent individual, but I don’t like to think.

 I know that once I go to college that I’m going to have to think a lot more than I do now. College is going to be a lot more complex than elementary, middle, and high school combined. I know there are things that I really need to work on. To better myself as an individual, I’m going to continue to work on my grammar and other English things. I believe people should continue to work on themselves as much as they can. There’s always something new to be learned no matter how old you are or how old you get.

 Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I know that you probably had better things to do. Read this portfolio as you wish. Take your time.

Sincerely,

LaShonya Norman