
Writer's Statement about "Now Is the Time to Unmask"

AMANDA INMAN

I believe that the place I struggled the most was actually picking the topic to work on. I was so overwhelmed by the high stakes of the assignment, as well as the immense commitment it entailed. As a self-diagnosed perfectionist, I wanted to choose a topic that would not put up a fuss. When we met with Ms. Tyrrell everyone seemed so determined and sure; I showed up an absolute mess, with hair disheveled and a notebook scribbled over with ideas. Eventually, in a moment of procrastination, my topic came to me. It shifted and changed over time, scrapping away unnecessary parts, and molding those that were essential. My two greatest sources of aid were Ms. Tyrrell and the library databases. I became fluent in how to search those databases for the perfect books. I spent weeks hunched over them, post-it notes in hand. My audience was to be adolescents and young adults. I found that the best way to reach them would be through the Internet. I did not want to just write an essay. I felt a strong urge to make my project bigger, better, stronger. Why not a website? With adolescents clutching their phones as a form of life support, what better way to reach that audience? The only downfall was that I am not even remotely fluent with technology. It took a full week for me to master the art of wordpress.com, a feat that would take the average college freshman a total of five minutes. I knew that I would be writing for adolescents so I tried to write in a way that would intrigue them, not push them away. I wrote in a conversational manner as to not frighten them off.

The greatest piece of advice I could give to another student would be to choose a topic that you are passionate about. Literacy is found everywhere, not just simply in outdated textbooks. When you care about your topic, it does not seem like a labor to research it. In fact, it starts to feel natural. The library is not a terrifying, impossible to navigate place. It has an infinite amount of resources, ready for you to check out. You write because you want to be heard by someone. That someone will shape your genre, vocabulary, and form of presentation for your project. This class forced me to see myself as a writer, not just a student.

Amanda Inman

Amanda Inman is currently a sophomore at Florida Atlantic University. She looks forward to returning to the UCF community in Fall 2013. She is majoring in Elementary Education. She is a self-proclaimed reading addict, and loves to write as well. Her project, "Now is the Time to Unmask," was written in Genevieve Tyrrell's Spring 2012 ENC1102 class.