

Power of the Written Word

FOBL Essay
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“The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say but what we are unable to say.” - Anaïs Nin

I have always had trouble with words. I was never able to communicate properly because I couldn't find the right words to say. The quote by Anaïs Nin really spoke to me because before I started writing, I didn't have a way to express what I had to say.

I was raised reading books instead of being glued to a Television screen all day. I loved reading, I must have had about 50 books at one point. In middle school I discovered poetry, I was thrown into the world of words and rhyme. I was fascinated by how the poets got their messages into words that just flowed so effortlessly. I read a poem about an alcoholic mother that abandoned her daughter for the drink. It felt like the poet had ripped my thoughts right out of my head. That was the first time I encountered a writer that said what I didn't have the ability to say.

I started writing my freshman year of high school. I wrote about anger and pain. I finally found the words to put my message onto paper. Writing helped me let go of some of the negative emotions that I had carried within me for several years. It amazed me that I now had the ability to put my message out onto the world. I still had trouble verbally speaking about anything, but I could write like it wasn't a problem. In my Junior year of school, I wrote a short story called

Just Another Hole In The Wall. It was about domestic violence and I wrote it because my sister had been in a situation similar to what I wrote about. The short story gave me a way to cope with my feeling about what had happened and also gave me a way to speak against domestic violence. Many people would have just tried to forget the situation but I felt it was a serious issue that often goes ignored. I wrote about how bad the violence could get.

A quote from the short story is "He just killed this person that he claimed he loved. He tries desperately to wipe the blood off of his hands, but they are stained with guilt". That quote came from the fear of what could have happened to someone I deeply cared about. The short story had many of my teacher concerned for my safety. I never thought I would have had to explain my reasoning behind my writing.

I have been on both sides of the world of written word. As a reader I read about the things I didn't have the courage or ability to say myself and as a writer, I wrote about topics that people are afraid to talk about or can't talk about. In a way, my writing surprised even myself. My words are no longer trapped inside of me and I can continue to spread my message to the world.