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Mi Familia

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Mi Familia

Michelle Palafox

In the family picture of my going away party one can see my crazy little sister throwing up peace signs. My older sister was standing awkwardly and my mom was making a kissy face like always. My dad was standing, semi-smiling, next to my brother-in-law. I stood behind them and I was photographed with a caught-off-guard face.

This picture represents how we're all different but we still stand together like a family should. Many people see us as a rich family. Many people think our family is perfect. Many people think our lives are normal. Many people see how different we are and are so quick to judge. But no one can see, by just looking at the picture, how much struggle we have actually gone through.

No one can see the strangers laughing whenever my sister had a seizure in public. No one will see how we couldn't go out as a family because of my sister's seizures and behavior. No one will see how my sister got admitted to a mental hospital because her teacher thought she was crazy when she was five years old. No one will see how my mom had to stop working because my sister's life was at risk. No one will understand how broken we were. No one will see how although things were tough, we were still happy to have each other. In the picture, we all stood together, just as we have through good and bad times, just as every familia would.

REFLECTION

Freewriting has opened many doors of creativity that I never thought I had. I was never able to just write about anything the way we did for our freewrites in class. Usually I could only write a paragraph or a little less than that. However, throughout ES 107 I was able to write up to two pages on any assigned topic. I have always wondered why I was never able to complete a creative writing piece and I still don't know the answer. I feel that now, having written strong and meaningful freewrites has motivated me to improve my writing skills.

The process, from the first freewrite to the last one, was amazing. I am glad that now I am able to write about any topic that is given to me. The process of learning how to let my feelings out and write about them is amazing, and I am proud I am now able to accomplish that. It was hard at first, I am a little close-minded. Having a professor that is very open-minded and supportive of her students helped out alot.

I was always ashamed of sharing and explaining my freewrites to my peers, but when I finally shared, I felt comfortable and welcomed. Having peers who respected my thoughts in my freewrites is another reason why I believe my freewrites kept improving throughout the class. I am glad we had to write during every class time. Writing together made the class bond and we got stronger. My peers and I related in many different ways and that made writing more important to me.