Dear Mr.Winterbottom,

As I write this letter to you, I find myself thinking about writing an essay is a way to express myself. Peter Elbow said that we could become two, three, or even more people if we wanted; they are already in our head. Writing could help us to identify ourselves. Sometimes we might not be able to say or do something in reality, but in writing, we can write whatever we want and express the real selves. I thought about quiet a lot when Peter Elbow talked about his concept of writing. Outlining is a skill that I have been told to use since I started to go to school. It is obviously not the best way for me to create an essay.

It has been a year, since I graduated from Marple Newtown high school, I will always remember our small ESL class with only four people in a room. Personally, I feel my writing improves so much. Sometimes I was forced to make an outline before I write, and the result comes out terribly. My mind never follows the outline. In the Beginning of an essay, instead of making an outline, I usually write down what I think for the first paragraph, and then paragraph by paragraph. When everything is organized into an outline, it is not helpful for me to think continuously.

We’ve cover many things in our class. One of the things that I learned from class were from the article “Bird by Bird”, which means take things slowly and step by step to make things write. Sometime when we are rushing to do or writing something, it’s not good for us, and the result will not be as we expected. Also we spent plenty of time to talk about themes. We are not writing as elementary students anymore. We have to clear our ideas in writing, and our words have to be descriptive by showing the scene instead of telling it. For me, telling is always easier than showing. Telling is something that I learned to do since I was little. I could write a sentence such as “today is a nice day, I hang out with my friends and we have fun”, and this could be my essay. I am telling people that I went out with friends and had fun. By showing, there is a lot more than telling. There are more descriptive and fancy words in showing a scene. Showing creates images in our heads, like a movie was originally made by stories. Sometimes I can spent hours and hours to find the precise words to describe a scene, and it has really made me crazy when I couldn’t think of any words to showing a scene.

We have been learning to use literary devices, such as juxtaposition, dialogue, and foreshadowing. These words are not hard to understand, but they are definitely hard to apply in an essay for me. When I was writing, the only thing that appears in my head was that to finish the story. If I could use one of these literary devices that I listed above in my essay, then I must have done it unintentionally. Though the dialogue is easier that the others, but picking the right dialogues is extremely important in an essay. Dialogues create the transitional effect, and they are also the pivot in an essay. Conversations among people sometimes state the main idea of our essay. Because our topics are sometimes created by these conversation, and by adding conversations in our essay, we could have more showing than telling.

In term of writing creative nonfiction, it is the first essay in this semester. I had hard time to think of some ideas of how to get it start. I always try to escape class when I have difficult time to process essays. I spent class time to write nonfiction essay, and because I missed the workshop in class, I had to find tutor in library to revise my essay. The tutor almost scratched out everything that was in my paper. I was a little frustrated. I had a lot of phrasings, so that I need to choose better words to describe the scene. Some of the paragraphs are not relevant to my essay, so I spent plenty of time to delete the irrelevant part and add more new writing to it. I think my essay didn’t turn out as bad as I thought. However, this essay should be completed with more revisions.

It has been the half of this semester. I posted our blogs on website; I wrote our first essay and had two drafts that have been posted on website also; I were asked to revise our blog posts and make any better changes if possible. I am on my way to go through the whole semester. But I know that everything will go backward if I don’t try harder to push it forward.

Sincerely,

Hailey