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Prof: Katch

English 101

Cover Letter:

The audience that would be targeted to this essay would be the 1st generation of Hispanic/Latino community who was born in the United States of America because as a 1st generation Latino born in the U.S.A, it is hard for me to understand and speak Spanish and I know there are some Hispanics/Latinos that were born in the U.S.A that also have difficulties with Spanish. Some of the most meaningful insights I have gained in this phase is that language comes in many ways. Some of the concepts that have impacted my learning was reading the text “Why I Keep Speaking Up” by Safwat Saleem. That concept impacted my learning because after reading that text, Safwat Saleem and I had felt the same way when I walked into a room. We both felt uncomfortable but now thanks to him, I don’t feel that type of feeling anymore. The term that has impacted my writing is the term “Code Meshing”. The reason why the term “Code Meshing” has impacted my writing is because while writing my final draft of Written L&L Narrative, I was constantly checking my sentences and grammar to make sure that everything was cleared so that the audience who is reading this could understand this clearly so they won’t have any confusion while reading it. I also use rhetorical situations by having context in my essay to explain how I ended up learning Spanish and how that affected me. The text “ Mother Tongue” by Amy Tan helped me out when I was writing my Written L&L Narrative. There were examples like the time when Amy had to take calls for her mother because her mother's English

wasn't the best and when I was reading that, that moment she went through made me remember a time when my parents asked me to do something for them since they weren't fluent in English in the past. The ways that the Phase one assignment has helped me achieved some of my Course Learning Outcomes is by reading some texts for example, the text "Theme for English B" by Langston Hughes, one of the main ideas from that text was identity and now I'm writing a text about my Identity and I identify as a first generation Latino who was born in the United States of America who has trouble learning and Understanding Spanish .

Written L&L Narrative:

Throughout my life ever since I was a toddler, I thought that every single place on earth speaks English but soon that thought was about to change forever for the greater good. In 2009, my family took me and my older siblings to Ecuador and that was a moment I would never forget. At that time I was 3 years old so during that time I was still learning words in Spanish. The best part is that I wasn't alone. My sister who is 4 years older than me was also struggling to speak Spanish in Ecuador. My older brother was born in Ecuador but he came to New York with my mom when he was one year old so his Spanish was better than ours but not perfect. In Ecuador, it is really important for me to learn Spanish. Ecuador also had another language that is called Quechua but my family speaks Spanish. I mostly knew words in English while the only words I probably knew were saying "Si" , "Por Favor", and "Porque" and probably the only sentence I knew how to say perfectly was " Que hay para cenar". I would say going to Ecuador almost every year really improves my Spanish and makes the locations a lot easier to find. I remember going to a tourist attraction in Ecuador that is called " Mitad del mundo" and I knew

exactly where it is not just because I have a great memory but also how many hours it is from my uncle's house and what is it about. If I ever needed help talking to a stranger, my parents would tell me what to say in order for the stranger to understand what I'm saying. I remember when I was 10 years old and I was shopping with my mom and once we got to the check out, I was asking the cashier if I could get a pack of gum (I don't remember what was it called) but the cashier was confuse with me because I didn't knew how to pronounce the word "pack" so my mom told the cashier that I wanted a pack of gum. After that, my mom told me the way to say the word pack was "paquete" and now I know how to pronounce pack in Spanish. Being able to speak Spanish is part of my genes, is part of my heritage. I remember a time when my parents needed help translating a document that they received and when they called me, I was able to translate some part of it but that means my Spanish needs some tweaks. Sometimes I don't understand the jokes that my family is telling them but it makes me chuckle. I still am struggling with learning words in Spanish but it's getting better. When I'm speaking in Spanish, I sometimes choke on a word or get words mixed up. When I have to say the word "atropellando", I would have to say it slowly because when I pronounce that word, I always stutter. I remember when I was little I always thought that the word embarrassed in Spanish was "Embarazado" but when I said that everyone was questioning me. I told my siblings that I'm saying embarrassed in Spanish but they told me that the word for embarrassed in Spanish was "avergonzado". After that moment, I looked on google translate and typed in the word Embarazado and translated it to English. That was the day that I learned that the word "Embarazado" means Pregnant in English. Throughout the years, I have been coming back to Ecuador with more words to use in conversation with my family members and strangers in the streets. Being able to understand Spanish to me is cool and because of that, I can listen to my grandparents' amazing stories from

the 20th century when they were young and raising my mother. I'm still practicing Spanish here at home and in my home country and by doing that, I would teach my younger cousins what each word means and I would have them use the words in a sentence that way I won't forget my Spanish and for them to be able to speak Spanish whenever they have to visit Ecuador. The way I learned new words was reading the advertisements that were on TV, on billboards, reading the signs on the top of the coach buses. and listening to the radio in my Uncle's car. Even Though I don't know all the words in my Ecuadorian culture and Spanish, my family never made me feel abandoned or treated me differently because I speak a whole different language better than Spanish. Me being from a Spanish speaking family is a gift to me. I feel better when I get to go to Ecuador since there are new words that are waiting for me and they know that I'm waiting for them. When I'm back home in New York, I don't stop speaking Spanish. I speak Spanish because I love it so much and I get to tell people that don't speak English how to get to their destination . There are a lot of Spanish vocabulary words that I am currently finding out and in my mind I'm asking myself " How I haven't heard of this word yet. It's awesome". Spanish is in my blood and also Ecuador in my blood. Even though the first language I learned was English, in my heart I would always consider it as the first language I learned was Spanish. Spanish is my way to relax, have fun, and another way to be myself with the people I connect with. Ecuador is my Spanish teacher and I am their only student. I am a tree and Spanish is the water that is pouring down my roots. Now I have the confidence to make some new friendships with people I talk to in Ecuador and with some Ecuadorians here in the city. In conclusion, I am so grateful that I come from a Spanish speaking country and this is a language that will stick with me until my time comes.