

PORTFOLIO INTRODUCTION—FALL

Wow, I really do have something to say

Kristine Sorenson

Writing my first paper about my friend Bri was really more of an outlet than anything. When that night happened I had written to my parents and my best friend to tell them what I had just experienced, but rehashing it a year later in more detail than I thought I even remembered gave me a chance to reveal more this time of what happened to Bri. While I was writing this paper I learned that my roommate from last year Erin, was actually beginning to drink herself. Writing about our experience with Bri began to mean more to me now than ever because it seemed like I'm the only one who remembers it and still feels something when I think of it. Knowing that Erin had begun drinking too this year with the other girls enhanced my desire to make my story known to make sure I

wouldn't put it in the back of my mind too and so that just maybe someone else who might read it will think of it later too if they find themselves in such a situation. When I first started writing this piece it was dry and extremely unemotional, I was basically just writing to write and not writing because I felt there was a reason to. When I met with my peer group about my paper they were thoroughly disappointed and wanted to know so much more about the event in more detail of feeling and experience. That's when I realized that this story needs to be heard because people want to know. Lucas commented that a situation like the one I was involved with had to have had more feeling than what I revealed and that's what he wanted to read about. I began to write not that I would live but that others would decide to live because of what I'm writing. And it occurred to me that it doesn't matter that I'm the one writing it but what I'm writing about. I've already

been changed by that night, it's time others become changed because of it too and if that meant writing about it then I was going to write about with every bit of emotion that I remembered feeling that very night.

My second paper was pretty fun to write because being an avid member of the Pro-Life association I definitely had a lot to say about the Bio Ethics report idea of producing life to kill it in order to save lives. I was a little nervous of what my peer group might think about some of the issues I brought up, that perhaps I was stretching my point. When I got the peer reviews back though it turned out that that was the point that hit them the most and they were encouraging to me to continue with it. Tim also specifically called my attention to how society in general is attempting to master themselves, like the scientists in the labs are, in something as simple as distributing condoms in school. I realized how much

deeper I can take this paper in relation to where we are at right now as a society. Not only did I lead this paper with opinion but I wanted to make sure I wasn't taking a bias stand of someone who's life is full of good health and never has the thought, "I wish there was a way to cure me" go through my head. I made a point to include my own disease, endometriosis, so that I could make sure I was standing as someone who isn't willing to take advantage of life simply because there is a part of mine that isn't perfect.

I think it's safe to say that this last piece I hated writing the most. I had such a terrible time even coming up with a topic to write about. I'm not the kind of person that goes around trying to define and question things about life so even when I finally was able to figure something out to write on I was definitely challenge in the process of writing it too. I realized that the best way to raise questions is deal with something in my life that I have

had to question. That's when I remembered that the one thing I kept questioning growing up was, "why am I never good enough?" I took a good look around at the people I encounter everyday and the people I've known in the past and I began to question everything about them. I looked around at the people in my classes and asked myself, "why does she feel she has to match her hat with her sweater and with her scarf?" or why does my best friend always make a point to say, "I don't match"? and I wonder why I've made the statement recently, "It's so annoying that suddenly it's cool to LOOK like you're an art major!"? I heard in the back of my mind, "Sounds like a paper topic," and I realized, it is.

I didn't know I had all of these things that I put down on paper in me until I started writing. Honestly I still don't really get it when I heard the phrase, "Writing as if your life depended on it," but I did realize that through

my writing I learned a little more about myself and I'm pretty sure my life depends on that. I realized my thoughts and opinions on things were much more personal to me and that I really do have a something to say on issues I didn't think I had anything to say about. So I guess to me writing means I catch up on more of what I didn't know I knew about myself.