

"Making New Goals"

Steve Klee

New Lenox, IL

"What the heck is a portfolio?" On the first day of The Human Experience, this was all I could think of. As I began reading *Portfolio Keeping*, my initial thoughts were, "Oh yeah, this seems like a big waste of time and way too much work for my liking. I can write just fine, why do I need to make a portfolio?" But then, after I got my first paper back, I immediately appreciated the value of being able to work throughout the semester on my papers and allow them to grow as I grew. Now, as I look back at the original drafts of my papers, I wonder why I was so upset with the comments I received. After working on the first few drafts of those papers for so many hours, I was shocked at not getting the same comments I received in high school.

Rather than getting defensive, as I did with the literacy narrative, I decided to set new goals beyond what I thought was expected of me. I not only took into account my peer groups ideas, but looked deeper into what may have prompted their comments, especially in the "pointing" and "almost said" categories. As we got to know our peer group as individuals, this became easier to do, so much so that now we are at the point where I can guess what they will say about a paragraph or section before they even read it.

I think the essays I have chose to submit represent how I've had to change my goals. The first essay discusses the necessity of self-acceptance through the creature in *Frankenstein* and throughout the film

Gattaca. In high school I became accustomed to getting good grades in all my classes. When I came to Valpo and got a C on my first paper and a B on my first quiz, I truly realized that college would be different from high school. I have learned to accept that I will not keep a 4.0 and that it can be as important to forge healthy relationships with others as to get good grades. This ties into my second paper, which discusses the relationship between Toto and Alfredo in *Cinema Paradiso*. By writing this paper, I learned that education will give my relationships quality outside the classroom, and that learning to live with others is just as important as learning about a career. As for living with others, the last paper represents how I've grown socially this year. I never would have made these claims about serving others at the beginning of this year.