[00:00:00.000] - Troy Tien Nguyen

Hello, everyone! My name is Troy, and I'm very honored to be here today to share with you a writing experience of Evy Ngo. She is a first-year student at DePauw University. Hi Evy, can you share a little bit about yourself?

[00:00:16.290] - Evy Ngo

Hi, Troy! Hi, everyone! My name is Evy, and I'm an international student from Vietnam. Currently, I'm taking Professor Sununu's first-year seminar class: "Ruin & Re-begetting." I have a lot to say about the class. Hope you'd like it!

[00:00:35.160] - Troy Tien Nguyen

Today, I would like to hear more about your writing experience. It can be the success or failure and your philosophy of writing. Are you ready?

[00:00:44.260] - Evy Ngo

Sure.

[00:00:45.640] - Troy Tien Nguyen

Okay! Question number one: to you, what is writing?

[00:00:52.780] - Evy Ngo

[00:01:31.230] - Evy Ngo

It means in order to be a good writer, you really have to question yourself it's the time for you to reflect. For speaking, because of the fast speed, you have to move fast, and you don't have much time to reflect. For writing, you have a lot of time. In order to write well, you have to focus. And that's all about meditation focus, be in the moment, and reflect.

[00:02:01.880] - Troy Tien Nguyen

Okay, now I guess what you mean! So to you, a good writer is one who can reflect, meditate, and ask good questions. Do you consider yourself a good writer?

[00:02:14.870] - Evy Ngo

I can say that I am a dedicated writer, but I'm not sure that I'm a good writer because there are still a lot of things for me to learn. As an international writer, whose English is not my mother tongue, I can say it's even more difficult than a native student. However, I can say I'm very serious about whatever I write. I cannot stand to submit anything that is so unthoughtful. Everything I write, even though it's not good in terms of grammar and diction, I always give my best to it.

[00:02:56.530] - Evy Ngo

And I spend a lot of time writing. For one essay, I usually spend 20 to 24 hours it means a week just to write a 3-4-page essay.

[00:03:09.760] - Troy Tien Nguyen

That is awesome! I really admire how you say that you really put your thoughts into the essay because I know that a lot of students let the grass grow on their feet, which means they wait until the deadline to work on the essay or the piece of writing. They just grab all the things they have within one or two hours. I think that's insane! I really like how you said that in order to write well, you have to put your th

I actually enjoy the process of writing. I enjoy it and hate it at the same time because it is very painful. As I said, it takes a lot of time, and sometimes, I don't want to write. I want to do something else. I want to cook or hang out with friends, but I can't I have to stick to the writing only. Hence, it's kind of painful. However, at the same time, because I put a lot of effort into it,

[00:04:12.690] -

And if you are stuck at your rewrite, you have to rewrite-the-rewrite.

[00:06:13.400] - Troy Tien Nguyen

Oh my goodness, that's painful!

[00:06:16.980] - Evy Ngo

Aha, she's very careful. She's so good at what she's doing, so she can tell you what you do wrong even just a comma, a period, a space, or a dash, not just words. Moreover, if you write three pages of essays, she will give you three pages of feedback.

[00:06:42.360] - Troy Tien Nguyen

Are you serious?

[00:06:44.090] - Evy Ngo

Yes, she does. She spends a lot of time with you. If you have questions, you can come to find her at any time because I feel like she lives in her office. She doesn't have office hours because she led her while you live there.

[00:06:59.410] - Troy Tien Nguyen

I think that Professor Sununu believes that her feedback would help you improve day by day. Do you have any recommendations for people who struggle with writing? I know a lot of international friends. For example, my Vietnamese friends at DePauw just avoid all writing classes. They avoid those classes as much as possible because they just hate writing. They feel like they cannot express their thoughts and words.

[00:07:31.260] - Troy Tien Nguyen

It's just a painful process. Do you have any recommendations for those people who struggle or just think that they are not good writers?

[00:07:40.950] - Evy Ngo

I think I just have to do it. There's no other way. You can convince yourself that you don't need writing, but actually, when you go to work, you will need it a lot. I talked with a lot of alumni, and they said that what makes DePauw students stand out is our ability to write clearly and communicate concisely. In order to become a good writer, I think there are only two ways. First,