

The Rough Draft

January/February 2018



Perspective Piece by David Hardison

I'm almost done with school. This'll be my last semester... unless I eventually decide to get a PhD (but I'll worry about that later). The point is that my educational goal, the one I made what feels like a lifetime ago, the one to get a Master of Arts degree in English, the goal that will allow me to teach in the community which I love, is almost complete. Done. And it feels great.

As I look back at the years I have spent in school, I can remember the many times I questioned what I was doing, whether this was really all worth the trouble or if I could even do this. There have been so many mountains to climb along the way, so many challenges. Whether it was spending the precious resources of time and energy, dealing with problems with family, with finances, or various jobs, there have been innumerable times where I wondered if I could even do it.

Now, this isn't supposed to be a long "good job to me" because I know I'm not alone. I know that there are so many students who are right now standing in the same position I was a few years ago, and I know it's not a fun place to be. I don't think I'd have made it without the support and encouragement I had from many places, so if you're in this place right now, know that I'm cheering on every step forward that you make. But I also want to share with you the


perspective of someone who's farther along: it's worth it. Keep pushing. Because even though it seems like the more you climb the more mountain there is, remember that it's important to turn around sometimes to see how high you've made it.

Even though I may be close to finishing my formal education, one thing I'm certain of is this: I'm far from done learning. There will always be more climbing, but the more I climb the better the view is when I turn around and thank everyone for helping me get there.

Words of Wisdom by Roubina Hamamijan

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."—Albert Einstein

In other words, if we don't have the ability to imagine our scenes, we will not be able to be critical thinkers. However, it is also important to gain knowledge through our experiences. Knowledge by itself is not enough to be a good writer. Being creative is the most important key in the writing process. Thinking in a different way and perceiving the world from a different angle helps a lot to become a good analyzer. The reading process also leads us to the logical



reasoning. In order to be a successful writer, we have to be adventurous.



Words of Knowledge by Carolina Mata

resolute (adjective)

1. marked by firm determination : resolved a resolute character
2. bold, steady a resolute gaze

culpable (adjective)

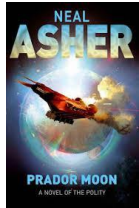
1. archaic : guilty, criminal
2. meriting condemnation or blame especially as wrong or harmful culpable negligence

The defendant is culpable for her actions.

seemly (adjective)

1. a : good-looking, handsome
b : agreeably fashioned : attractive
2. conventionally proper : decorous not seemly to brag about oneself
3. suited to the occasion, purpose, or person : fit

Book Corner by Jonah Schneider



There are many science fiction stories about machines taking over the world. However, Neil Asher's *Polity* series takes this relationship between man and machine and turns it on his head. The first book in the series, *Prador Moon*, shows that the machines are relatively benevolent rulers of the planets they control. The book follows the adventures of several humans working for the Polity, the government run by artificial intelligences. The Polity has had the knowledge of a sentient alien race, known as the Prador, for years. However, there has been no direct contact between the two until the Polity becomes a target for Prador conquest. In the midst of the conflict, an anti-AI separatist group makes its move on eradicating the machines of the Polity in the name of human freedom.

This is a great book because it shows what life could be like with digital minds in charge that are also capable of compassion. It is a refreshing take on the concept because it steers away from the typical doom-and-gloom that is usually present during stories like this. You also see multiple layers to Asher's world. While things are great on the surface, there are those who are discontent with the Polity's rule and will do whatever necessary to end it. I like the different philosophical questions that the book brings to light because it makes you wonder what you would do in the situation. Not to mention that you get to know several characters, each with their own motivations and goals, and you understand what makes them act the way they do.

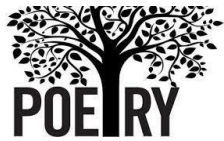
Overall, *Prador Moon* presents a world in the future that is very different and yet similar to our own. Despite the drastic technological differences, the problems and desires of the people are pretty much the same. Asher presents a world that feels very different, and yet the

audience has no trouble relating to it. If you are a fan of robots, aliens and philosophy, then you owe it to yourself to check out this book.

Grammar Bytes by Daisy Martinez

Whether you are driving to campus or on your way to grab a bite to eat, you can improve your usage of the English language by listening to the “Grammar Girl: Quick and Dirty Tips™” podcast. It was created by Mignon Fogarty, who is a magazine writer, technical writer, and entrepreneur. The podcast episodes consist of quick 10-15-minute lessons, or “tips,” as she calls them, on grammar. They are quite useful and offer a variety of topics.

Poem of the Month by Catalina Chaffin-Chicas



Newness in the Morning

The newness of the
morning is
a blur. A sticky,
hazy blur of
day. It is
sometimes sweet,
sometimes sour.

Living in it, I can
only see
that change is much
muddier than I imagined.
The details
blend,
combine,
fuse together,
to create the blur.
The newness of a
“Good morning, love.”
that blurs into
my now reality.

Tutor Bios

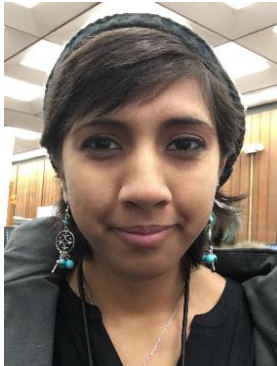


Hi guys! My name is Faith Alonzo. I am a Psychology major currently attending Fresno City College with the hopes of graduating this spring and transferring to Fresno State in the fall.

My main hobbies include but are not limited to: reading, writing, playing basketball or football with my family, drawing, and playing video games (preferably Fallout 4) in my spare time. I also enjoy traveling out of state or going to the beach to escape the brutally hot summers in Fresno. However, like most college students, I am incredibly busy in trying to

balance work, school, ministry at my church, and a social life, so being able to get out of the Central Valley is not always an option. Instead, I'll hang out with my friends and students (in youth ministry), cook a new dish that I've wanted to try for a while, or watch a movie like Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, or Harry Potter.

Even though I've only been working at the WRC for two weeks, I've really enjoyed meeting new people and getting to make new friendships. It is an awesome experience in being able to work with students and help them better themselves as writers. I've met some fantastic people who are willing to learn and listen, which makes my job fun and enjoyable.



My name is Aurora Lopez and I'm a current student at Fresno City College. I have my Associate's Degree in American Sign Language Studies and am finishing up a few remaining general ed classes before transferring over to Fresno State. Once there, I plan to enroll in their Deaf Education Master's Program. I live with my husband, our two dogs, Larry and Ginger, and my goldfish, Goldie Hawn. My hobbies are reading, gardening, coloring, and binge watching my favorite shows on Hulu.

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