

First Traces to Writing Academically: The Crafts of my Third Semester Students

When I became a mother, ten years ago, everything changed for me as a human being and of course as a teacher. I realized that every student in my classroom is someone's child, someone's special person. That is the reason why I try, as much as possible, to listen to my students and make sense of their lived experiences. I try to comprehend their realities. Definitely, being a mother transformed my teaching.

One way to echo my students' voices is to give them the possibility to express what they think, live, and believe. The essays that follow were part of a Reading and Writing Workshop that took place during the first semester of 2021 with students who are enrolled in a Modern Languages Program with emphasis in English at Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia. These students were in their third semester, and this was the first time they were asked to start writing following some academic parameters. The third semester students made the decision to write about a topic that, at that time, was multifaceted for them: mental health during the pandemic. I welcome all the readers to enjoy "listening" to my third semester students.

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