

# The Process of the Voice

Alejandro Solano  
WR 121z

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Uncovering your own voice as a writer can feel like searching for a hidden melody. Some people find it in the rhythm of their daily conversations, weaving the emotions from their text messages straight into their stories. For them, it just clicks. For others, it is a slow journey, a gradual tuning of words and tone until one day, they finally hear themselves in their writing and think, "That's how I want my readers to hear me." This journey aligns closely with the course's emphasis on understanding writing as a dynamic process and recognizing the significance of rhetorical awareness. By engaging with diverse writing theories and practicing different styles, we learn that our unique voice is not just about individuality but also about effectively communicating with varied audiences. Understanding these elements helps refine our voice and fulfill course objectives, making us more adaptable and insightful writers.

For me, finding my voice took years. Early on, my mom taught me that if you want to be taken seriously by someone with a higher education, you must think like them and outperform them. This does not mean losing yourself in the process, but rather taking more time out of your day to learn more about a particular subject and becoming the best at it. I took my mom's advice seriously. Whenever I struggled in school, I dedicated more time to researching ways to outperform my peers.

In writing, I was the worst in my class for one key reason: my lack of voice. My writing was so robotic that, while it got me through some early literature classes, it did not

satisfy me when responding to writing prompts for weekly journal assignments. I felt like a literal robot. That's when a middle school teacher asked if I read many books. Initially, I was insulted at first by the thought of her judging my ability to read a book, but then I took a step back to think about what she meant, and I told her I hadn't been reading as much as I thought books were boring. That's when my teacher, Mrs. Fast, suggested I hadn't yet found the right genre of books and encouraged me to explore different authors' writing as I pursued creative and personal writing. Following her advice was transformative; I began to notice subtle changes in my writing. I started taking ownership of my words, and my sentences became more vibrant and engaging. My writing was no longer a mechanical task; it began to reflect my thoughts and emotions, marking the first steps of finding my voice.

From then on, the library became my sanctuary. I even convinced a few reluctant friends to join me, bribing them with ice cream if they finished a set number of books. Truthfully, I just wanted someone to share those moments when a story finally made sense. We lost track of time among the shelves, devouring book after book. We started with nonfiction, but it felt as rigid as my old essays. Still, it taught me how to stretch small ideas into something bigger. Then, a friend dared me to try poetry. I laughed, but gave it a shot. Suddenly, I found something electric; words that felt alive and urgent. My first poetry book was *Clarity & Connections* by Yung Pueblo, a collection about how our past shapes our relationships. The more poetry I read, the more I realized: your voice is a journey, but sometimes it's already inside you, waiting for a spark. Poetry showed me the quiet power of words and taught me to pour emotion and meaning into every line.

As I played with rhythm and painted pictures with language, my writing finally reached others. Poetry didn't just help me find my voice; it made it pulse with life.

Experimenting with poetry not only transformed my leisure reading but also seeped into my course assignments. While tackling narrative essays, I began incorporating a poetic flair to captivate my audience with vivid descriptions. This approach also influenced my lab reports, in which I used concise yet powerful language to articulate complex concepts. The enhanced expressiveness added a unique touch to my academic work, impressing my teachers and enabling me to engage with the course material more dynamically.

Poetry became my escape from the predictable world of assigned readings and bestsellers. Poets have a way of building entire worlds with just a few lines, drawing readers in with vivid scenes and emotions. I see a poet's word choice like a painter's brushstroke—one small change can shift the whole meaning. That's the magic I wanted in my own writing. I want readers to notice the tiny details, the ones most people miss. I imagine my writing as a football team: the quarterback and receivers are the stars, but every player, even the water boy, matters. Every detail counts. I poured hours into reading poetry, studying how authors wove their ideas together until everything fit perfectly. That wasn't to say that it was just that easy. I struggled immensely when trying to incorporate poetry into my writing. My teachers could see that poetry took over my writing. It wasn't me, but it was me. My teachers asked me if I had begun reading poetry, and I would always say, "Yes, why?" They always told me that they knew, as it was all over my writing. A personal Narrative became a diary; it was just really poetry-heavy, and I knew that I had to make changes and fast, or else I would be stuck in this

poetry-heavy writing style that just doesn't quite fit into every writing assignment. I talked with Mrs. Fast to see how I could fix my problem. Her solution was for me to write in a poetic way while exploring different genres. That way, I get exposure to other genres and slowly adjust to writing in a normal setting while still maintaining those poetic attributes. As of now, I still struggle to ensure that my writing is uniquely mine, incorporates poetry, and remains distinguishable and comprehensible across all types of writing. As writers progress, I do the same by doing what I did from the beginning: reading. Instead of just putting all my attention to reading poetry books, I now dedicate time to reading other genres and see how I can implement other authors' aspects of writing into my work to further enhance my readers' experience, no matter what piece of literature I write, whether that is a personal narrative, research paper, or a journal prompt. When people come to me asking for help with a writing assignment, they have trouble wording it. I tell them the same thing my teacher once told me. I always tell them to read books across different genres to gain new and refreshing insights into how to convey tone in any writing.

To continue developing my voice, I aim to explore more academic writing and perhaps take part in workshops focused on different styles. My future goal is to balance the poetic elements with the clarity and precision required in professional settings. This ongoing journey requires commitment, but I am eager to see how my writing can evolve to meet different contexts and audiences, ultimately enriching my expression and effectiveness as a writer. Overall, it's important to find one's voice as a writer as it can impact how people perceive you as a writer. Knowing what you want your audience to know about you is in the way you convey and communicate your message to the

reader. I was able to do so with reading but everyone's approach will be different. You might find yourself reading, realizing that your voice is the one you use when texting your friends. Everyone's walk in the woods will be vastly different and have its own monster that must be slayed but in the end that voice comes to you at that light you see in the tunnel.

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**Instructor:** Nicole Nugent

**Abstract:** This reflective essay explores personal growth through determination and collaboration in college. Explaining how small responsibilities, class participation, and peer reviews revealed the importance of discipline, communication, and attention to detail. Through challenges and teamwork, the author gains confidence, strengthens relationships, and develops habits for future success.

**Bio:** Hi, my name is Alejandro Solano and I'm a business major that loves to do photography professionally. In my spare time I like to go golfing, go on hikes, and watch football. I like to do things even if I have no idea what I'm doing (like this) and see where it takes me. Other than that there's a little bit about me, bye!