

BABAJIDE AKEREDOLU
DR JIM LIPUMA
ENG 352- H02

Journal Entries

Initial Entry,

Autobiography

I was born in the City of Ibadan, the largest indigenous city in Africa about 70 miles from the countries capital business district and port town Lagos on the 20th of October 1988 to parents of two completely different tribes and culture. I am currently a sophomore and a chemical engineering major here at NJIT.

My name is Babajide Akeredolu, I am a native of the town of Owo, Ondo state and also Emeabiam, Imo State both in Nigeria. My first name came about as a result of the death of my grand father. The name which is from my native language of Yoruba is translated as *baba*-my grandfather *jide*-has risen again, and it is given to the first boy conceived after the death of a grandfather. I am the last of four siblings, two of which are back home in Nigeria and they happen to be the girls. They usually see it as unfair but my dad compensates them by spoiling them a whole lot I had most of my education back home in Nigeria where I was an average student hoping to at least perform excellently in my SAT to come down to the USA. I was a little bit of trouble in high, most likely because of my popularity but it all changed when I found Jesus Christ in my life. I thank him for making me who I am now.

I am currently a Desk attendant on campus and a tutor for the Learning centre. I always wished I had the opportunity to work off campus but as an international student, I guess it's safe to say that I'm stuck here until I graduate or get an internship. Before this, one task I did was help my mom in her fish farm especially with spawning which I think was a great learning experience. Another was being an entrepreneur in the business of burning movies and music for

people. I know its illegal here in the states but I was privileged to understand that those rules didn't count back home in Nigeria. The business was booming before I had to give it all up for College and it has so far been an action I haven't regretted.

I happen to posses a few strengths especially helping and trying to see the best in people. Many a people see this as a weakness since I most likely would get exploited but I see it as an opportunity to show Christ in my life. My other strength is the fact that I stand to what I believe in, without compromise. I guess the latter of my strength is also my greatest weakness but my other weakness is my shyness when addressing a crowd.

Journal 1- January 18 2007

It didn't take me long to realize that I failed to include the reason I chose to take ENG 352. The moment I found out, I immediately busted into laughter. I was lost in writing stuff about myself, I forgot the vital information required of me.

We were given the task of writing definitions this week. Creating this assignment was very challenging. First off, the numerous definitions on the internet made it almost impossible to come up with one independent of the rest but I believe I accomplished the task. Unbelievably, it happened to be hours after I turned in the homework that I realized that there was a whole chapter addressing the issue of definition. Luckily for me, Professor lipuma explained the concept and the approach in detail emphasizing especially on the concept of YKWIM (“You Know What I Mean”) and this greatly helped my defining of the terms given. I was also privileged to consult others for help and one person in particular—a tutor in the learning center—was able to reveal flaws in my definitions especially that for technology. Initially, I had defined technology as “The application of ideas into the creation of hardware and software to

improve the needs of people”. This definition was soon tagged invalid when I was given an example of a better technique to milking cows. He made it clear to me that although this could be some kind of technology, it does not always have to involve the creation of hardware and/or software. Many of my other definitions were revised from the definitions I viewed on my cell phone and they were thoroughly scrutinized to check if they can be applied to every aspect the word could fall into.

Technology- The implementation of ideas used to improve the needs of people.

Technical- Specialized in a practical skill usually in the arts or sciences

Writing- A form of visual communication involving marks and traces on surfaces

Communication- A form of interaction for the exchange of information between parties.

Journal 2- January 24 2007

Who would think placing a line underneath every heading on your resume might lead to no interviews? The week for resume writing made me realize how much the little things count. A well written resume for a Chemical Engineer like me must contain the basics; Your name clearly at the top of the resume sheet, your contact information right after which could be written in as many forms and patterns as possible. These styles are unlimited. Also, the resume must be well structured, clearly separating contact information and the body of the resume. The body must include Educational background and relevant courses e.g. Fluid flow, material balance etc. Hobbies are also seen as very relevant because you never know if the recruiter loves to surf. It should also include work experience, and Awards if any. It was emphasized in class that lying on your resume is bound to get you into trouble so DO NOT LIE BABAJIDE!!! EVER.

During class, it was quite unfortunate or should I say the contrary that I handed my resume to professor Lipuma to get it critiqued by the class. It was one of the most humiliating sessions of my life. Everyone found so many errors to the point that I felt like snatching the Resume off of His hand and toss it straight into the garbage can never to be seen again. Never the less, I sucked it all in and I made it a priority to redesign my resume from the first letter. Currently, I see my new and improved resume and I think of how wonderful it is, thanking the class for being honest.

I very much appreciate your candor and self reflection. This is excellent.

Journal 3 – February 2 2007

After graduating, I hope to pursue a master's degree in Petroleum Engineering. Wow!!!! Most folks would say asking me why I would choose to invest my time in a so called dying profession. The answer is quite simple: Discovery channel and the National Geographic channel have painted oil Rigs and refineries as a heaven in my mind. I see these places as the ultimate playing field to test myself in every form, shape and way possible. I see myself running my own oil firm in a few years, back home in my great country of Nigeria and I see this class as one of the foundations for achieving my goal. As it emphasizes critical thinking, ENG 352 brings inot my mind many questions that I have failed to realize as a result of the lack of critical thought most especially my now. I ask myself about my now and if it shapes me for my future. My involvements on campus, networking amongst other things have been put into perspective to see how it affects the future I have planned.

Switching topics, this week was complaint letter week. We were all given the task to come up with some problem on campus and a write up in form of a complaint letter. The class also included the different forms of writing letters, memo and a lot of emphasis on chapter 5.

Journal 4 February 7 2007

Class assignments are always very frustrating. I am usually forgetful and I end up doing most of my work at the last minute. I would deem myself lucky in class because most of what have been requested so far are material that have already been assigned to me in previous classes. All that is required of me is to incorporate the new critical thinking skill learnt in class. This skill is known as the MIMES and TRIBE of technical writing. Its initial beginnings involved the professor illustrating how a message is conveyed from a sender to a receiver through a medium and by a package of some sort. I have to say that I finally know what the acronym represents after weeks of failing to read the infamous and important chapter 5. MIMES stands for Message, Intent, Means, End-Result, and Success and TRIBES is an acronym for Target, Relationship, Influences, Background, and Environment, all of which is vital to all that is asked for in this class.

Journal 5 February 12 2007

My complaint letter is due in two weeks and I decided was going to be on the problem with parking on campus. Honestly, the decision to pick this issue was not my idea but was one that had resonated about campus and I grabbed the opportunity. I knew without a doubt that that issue was going to be addressed by others students in class but I felt it was appropriate and considerably easy. During class, Prof Lipuma made it clear that our complaints had to be related to our proposals and I had already planned my proposal on a new and innovative way to control the media in the classrooms. This led me to rewrite a new complaint letter which I felt was very appropriate. Using my new found critical thinking skills, I had to relate media in the classroom and a complaint. It hit during as I thought about my professor complain that he couldn't use

WebCt and another professor that almost tripped off a cable on the floor. I knew that related directly to my proposal and I ran with it.

Journal 6- Friday February 16

This week was the week for group oral presentation information. Our group chose to tackle the topic “Intellectual Property and patents”. I was somewhat lucky to work with very familiar faces and by this I mean, we had all taken a few classes together. I say somewhat because our familiarity inevitably led to discussions outside of class work. Many times I found my self pleading to have us revert back to the task at hand but was also enticed to contribute to the discussions being shared by my fellow group members. Boy were we lucky when we realized thanks to the help of Professor Lipuma that there was a presentation on the topic we planned on working on. There were two good things that happen today, first we knew we had little to do provided a few of us took reasonable notes at the presentation plus WE WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE CLASS EARLY. Now talk about a great professor yippee!!!

If it was only that easy to be a great professor

Journal 7- Friday February 22

Our group was number 4 for the oral presentation and which had a very shocking but enlightening start. The first team to go failed in so many ways that Professor Lipuma spent a large portion of the period stating their mistakes. I believe if he was given the chance, we would spend the whole period revealing all their wrongs. I was speechless, In my mind I thought “If he ‘slaughters’ the first group in such a way when he ought to be a little lenient noting that they chose to go first, what would he do with us”. Humorously, a group member of mine revealed to me that he had nightmares of our professor getting at our group. We didn’t get to present until

the next class and we made sure we were dressed to impress. The presentation was great but I noticed myself doing one of the dreaded mistakes noted by professor Lipuma; Looking at the screen. Even though I had notes in my hand, out of nervousness, I couldn't help but look at the screen as I tried to avoid the eyes of my classmates.

Journal 8 February 27, 2007

This week was process description week. On the contrary, the past 3 weeks have involved to a large part, process description ranging from a brief overview of the subject to the very controversial "How to tie you shoelace process for a two year old". The task at hand was to prepare with your group a process on how to tie your shoelace and as usual, we all forgot to inquire why we were assigned the task. "Damn it" as echoed from the mouth of professor Lipuma when he beats us to asking the question. During the exercise, I believe I learnt a years worth of information most notably the importance of making assumption and the vital critical thinking in terms of the MIMES and TRIBE of the situation. Questions like who is the process addressed to, what should the person have known initially, does the person need extra guidance and do you understand the process itself have to be thought through before starting the process. Included in process description writing, we were given a few guidelines as to how to structure our processes which was very helpful.

Journal 9 March 02, 2007

Our rough draft was due this week and I had already completed my draft weeks before it was due. I was so full of enthusiasm geared towards writing a process but I didn't know what to

choose. Acknowledging in my mind that there were so many techniques or processes I could write down on paper, I realized it wasn't as easy as it seemed. I made up my mind to write about how to make fish and by that I mean extracting the egg from the female and testis from the male and artificially fertilizing the egg. It seemed the best match considering my involvement in the process for years back home, but my group members made me realize that our processes was expected to be more "technical", a term I still don't quite understand. I yielded to their advice and choose to write a process on how to install Protowall.

Protowall is an IP blocker used to prevent access to information sent and received by your computer via the internet. As vague as this definition might seem, I felt I had no option but to use a less implicating definition. Explicitly, Protowall was built for people who participate in download usually illegal via "torrents" which are the worst nightmares of the media industry. Its main aim is to prevent large media conglomerates like Sony Entertainment, BMG amongst others who are capable of accessing your information from the packets of data sent and received by your computer via the internet. This information is then sent to your Internet Service provider who contacts you and informs you of the impending lawsuit filed against you for illegally downloading copyrighted material. Wow, what sane computer savvy individual would ever know of such a program without actually engaging in such immoral practices and wanting to cover his/her footprints? I happened to be one of those individuals and I truly did my homework as to how the software works. It is important to note that it also has its advantages of blocking those annoying popup and actually preventing illegal access from ad ware and spy ware companies. In my opinion, these little goodies were put in place to cover its "grand design".

Why did I choose the process you & I might wonder? First off, I had all through my stay in college researched on different IP blockers and this one seemed to be the crème de la crème of

the bunch. I researched how to install the software and how to include other third party software to make it even more effective. This one time I had built so much prowess in the software I could even prevent access to my computer from being accessed by the NJIT network. It got to a point that I didn't have to use an online manual to teach someone else how to install the software. Knowing the ins and outs of the software off the top of my head was the real reason I choose to adopt it as my process description.

Journal 10 March 09 2007

Our process description was due today and with me being me, I was going to turn it in at the last minute. **Well, before I actually turned it in, I had to turn it in at turnitin.com** (Now I should copyright this sentence without a doubt in my mind). Deep down inside, I didn't feel the need to go through the process since I was certain that at the least, 95% of the words in my process were from me. I was close to being right, actually the statistic on the website showed that 6% was sourced from another author(s)/webpage(s). I was surprised as to how accurate the website was in linking me to my actual sources and I could only imagine how bad I would have failed many of my classes back home in Nigeria is we had access to such a tool. My initial

Journal 11- March 23, 2007

We had a lady from the Library talk to us about information literacy this week and how the library is in search of new forms of print media notably brochures appealing to different individuals with the hope of certain results. Her intentions for the brochures though unclear but

clarified by professor Lipuma was three fold. The first which was geared towards faculty on campus is expected to give the following results: 1. have the professors contact her to learn more about information literacy 2. To have the professors take the information literacy test and finally 3. Have them include information literacy in their curriculum. The second brochure was to be geared towards freshman and its aim was to have them introduced to the concept in class and to always have her as a good resource. In honesty, I failed to note the third part of her intentions but I hope to find out when we do our oral presentations.

Journal 12 April 4, 2007

I missed class and I couldn't pick a number for my oral presentation. I hope I do not go last because grading my performance will be very tough. For now I had the opportunity of watching a team mate of my present his oral report. Very impressive I would say but most notably, the initial presenters gave me a very ingenious idea which I believe will blow the minds of everyone in class. For now, I will keep it under wraps until I have presented it to the class. Till then my little journal, till then.

I was the 21st student on the list to present his oral report. I had hoped that we were 23 but to my amazement, there were only 21 students. I guess my worst nightmare came to past.

Journal 13 April 6, 2007

After 9+ weeks of school, I guess I haven't learnt my lesson. I have been involved in so many activities with which I have procrastinated every task given to me. The result was very painful; I had one too many tasks to be done in a week. The pain involved sleepless night this

week because I had tones of homework that was due and of cause, the long awaited Oral presentation. With me being a photographer on campus, I had to opportunity to shoot a few angles of the campus center and with Photoshop, optimize the quality. Even though photography does not pertain to technical writing (well maybe in this class), my messing around sparked a great idea for my brochure. I thought to myself 'Imagine if you do something innovative and different, something that has never been done on campus'. Thanks be to God almighty, after I had read the bible and listened to a sermon, I felt I had the greatest idea. Make a poster and flyer that could not only be geared towards one target, but also be used as a point of contact to the other two. I know it is going to be the best of the bunch so I'll wait and see.

Journal 14 April 9, 2007

I started my presentation yesterday and I loved it. My secret weapon was my tagline "FIND THE COLOR". The flyer comprised of a picture of the campus center in the top half in black and white and the tagline in color on it. That half also included follow up questions like "IN YOUR RESEARCH" "IN YOUR ESSAY" amongst other things all in different shades of white and grey. Right underneath it all was the answer "PAINT THE COLOR IN YOUR EDUCATION, BE INFORMATION LITERATE". I could not believe I could think of such a thing but it was right there in front of me. Such happiness filled my heart. My approach was to catch the attention of anyone that reads the flyer. Noting that my client requested that their major success would be to see more students and faculty enquire about info literacy in the library, I knew for a fact that there was a need to embrace an approach different from the regular tri fold brochures which we all throw in the "RECYCLE" bins.

Journal 15 April 13, 2007

It will be an understatement to say that the unexpected happened. It seemed obvious that I was going to present my report next week but to my amazement, some students that preceded me failed to show up in class. Thank God I had my PowerPoint slides on my laptop. I was so unprepared but I did what I had to do. If there is anything I believe I did right, it was avoiding the screen and boldly using eye contact as effectively as I possible could. I guess I misunderstood the fact that professor Lipuma required us to strictly adhere to the three targets asked of us to select. I felt since I had the opportunity of speaking to my actual client, it wouldn't be an issue to tweak the requirements a bit. In the end, as expected I was placed in hot water but at least the whole class loved my concept and they all saw it as very new and innovative. I could only hope that my grade would not reflect the fact that I didn't limit myself but instead went further to do more.

Journal 16 April 15, 2007

After all that I have gone through this semester in ENG 352, I think the rest of the few weeks left will be challenging thinking about time management but the outcomes will be great. I know the proposal being our last major assignment is due in a week and I have to get on my grind and get it done with. I hope it comes out looking wonderful after all I have learnt from class and all those MIMES and TRIBES. It is quite unfortunate the I cant write anymore entries in my journal, it sure was fun and very enlightening having to think about what went on every week and critically delving deep into its impact on my perceptions and intellect.

Journal 17 April 10, 2007

I had this written before my final entry but I still would have this last. Who would believe MIMES, TRIBES and critical thinking would be such great help. The way I approach situations nowadays is an obvious reflection of what I learnt in class. Even in things like my photography, patiently waiting and critically examining all aspects rather than rushing into taking shots has helped improve my photography a great deal. As a Christian, the Bible talks a lot about meditating on the word of the Lord for it to be committed to memory. As weird as it may sound, Technical Writing has opened my eyes into not just understanding how to meditate but also having to analyze whatever goes on in my environment and thinking critically as to how it relates to my Bible reading. I undoubtedly thank God for giving me a professor like Jim Lipuma. Great guy except the fact that he tends to curse a lot, an attribute that disgusts me but hey, my Bible tells me that the Love of Christ can change anyone for the better and I believe one day we all will look back and thank God for his Love for my wonderful professor.

Finally, I know that I will follow instructions on the submission guidelines for this journal. No more mistakes

This is excellent and I appreciate the connections you make.

Grade= 100