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“The Story Of Myself”

By, Charles Wells

This is a story of me so I guess I'll start by saying a lot about myself.... I was born here in Fairbanks, Alaska, I left when I was six and moved to Yakima Washington where I lived till I was 22, then came back for work and here I've been since. I have two children my son Charles II (13 years old) and my daughter Lexi she is (8 years old.) When I first meet people I'm reserved I do a lot of listening before I do too much speaking I like to “test the waters” before I “dive right in”. The main reason I started listening intently was because when I was young my grandma Mary told me If I would listen more before I spoke I'd learn more, it took me a few years to figure out what she meant but it became a very useful tool in life once I did. I put a lot of faith in communication that's another reason I listen so intently is so my feedback has more substance, “because, I mean, come on, what's communication without some good feedback!” Sometimes I can be a bit apathetic in my feedback but never rude, Not on purpose anyway. Other times I can be listening to you looking you right in the eye, and not hear a word you say because I'm deep in thought, “REST ASSURED” if I notice I'm doing it I will ask you to repeat yourself.

I'm 5'10” 205 lb. brown hair and hazel eyes. Things I enjoy doing in jail include but are not limited to reading, chess, working out, work, spades and learning new things. Due to my lack of options none of these hobbies are unique. But they keep me very busy. It's my belief that staying busy with these hobbies, keeping your mind and body healthy is very important to overall moral while in jail. I believe that keeping in touch with people that truly care about me is a must. Not only while in jail but outside while free also, it's not for myself I believe this is a must, it's for them. My father and I play the algebraic version of chess through the mail it's one of many ways I keep in touch with my family, My dislikes are working out after very long days “but I do it anyways unless it's a scheduled day off”, mushrooms and oysters “because some mushrooms are poisonous and oysters are just slimy and gross), when people interrupt “because interrupting goes completely against my communication theory” “also I would interrupt a lot as a child and my parents taught me it was impolite to do so”, or when I am unable to remember a word or find a word to better describe what I'm trying to say “also a communication issue.”

I have a horrible habit of asking a lot of questions and at times even the same ones over again this habit only appears when I feel I need to better understand something “my father taught me this when I was young so blame him.” I also appreciate people's feedback positive and even better negative as long as it's not disrespectful or rude. Feedback is how I get an accurate sense of myself, guess you could say it keeps me grounded. I try not to curse too much I think it's an ugly way to express myself and it makes me feel stupid.

Something I've been working on is not maintaining any strict routine, like my workouts are staggered, always some new workout to do to keep things interesting. Or one day I may listen to music instead of play chess or do both!! Of course some things take priority like work and class they are set schedules but overall I enjoy being flexible in my daily routine it's a lot less stressful that way.

So this paragraph concludes the story of myself, but is not everything there is to know about me. So if you would like to know anything about me or my interest all you have to do is ask.

Now begins another story. This story you could call "A Story Of Us." Or you could not give it a title, and make one up at the end after you read this last segment of my writing. So to put this segment into context I have been In writing 111x. for a bit over 10 months it's kind of a work at your own pace class and I really like it so I drug my feet completing it. Hey its free for me and there's no other collage classes to take here so why not☺.

In this class I had the pleasure of meeting a lot of unique students and very smart teachers none of which I thought I was going to be able to relate to. Man I don't think I've ever been so wrong in my life LoL. First up is none other than Dr.Sara she's our teacher that's her career which is a funny coincidence because I love to learn. Be what's even more of a coincidence is when I have the opportunity and I understand the subject at hand well enough I find myself teaching and loving doing it. Thanks for believing in me Sara.

Shawn is another teacher in our class if he had a story of self I think it would say in it that he loves leaving a class with something tangible to show for his efforts. And I feel the same way! I really enjoy the days when I can work hard with a group toward a common goal and at the end of the day having something to show for it not everyone is like that be me and you Shawn we're not those type of people I believe that among many other similarities make us great class mates and group partners. Thanks Shawn.

Chris was another teacher I know I guess in this class we are all teachers but I truly believe he has forgot more about writing than I currently know so therefor we will classify anyone with that type of knowledge as "the teachers" at least in my writing. So Chris from what I know of him he has been writing most of his life but my favorite thing about Chris that we have in common was his calculating/strategic mind basically he plays chess I play chess and I think that's awesome!! Thanks Chris.

Kendall was another teacher in our group. She would very often contest what was going on in the classroom and she would ask a lot of questions. I'm the same way, what would surprise me most is when I had a question sometimes she would ask it right before I could. Thanks Kendall.

The last formal teacher is lacey if I had a copy of her story of self I think it would say something like. in a group she likes to listen well before she adds her opinion which is so cool because that's almost exactly what mine says ☺☺☺. When lacey and I communicate we are usually able to get our point across to each other swiftly and with precision which for me has been a huge help in this class. Thanks lacey.

I wish I could include everyone in this story because they all deserve it in my eyes. But here are a few. Robert Gentleman 3rd the main similarity I see in Robert's writing that's reminds me of my writing is he has no problem voicing his opinion or writing it down on paper for all to read, that resonates with me so well because I'm also big into communication I believe its very important. Thanks Bobby.

Eli Simpson has been in this class off and on for as long as or longer than I. That in itself is inspiring. Thanks Eli.

Eric was the first one to finish this class in F.C.C. the first thing I noticed in his writing that we had in common is we both enjoy putting ourselves into our writing. And as in this writing he also enjoys setting the context for his story. Because Eric finished this class I knew it was possible. That made it real for me. Although for me finishing this class and getting the credits is just a bonus. Because it's the interactions with everyone in this class I truly enjoy. Thanks Eric.

The End

“500 words on a word”

By. Charles Wells

“Apple” If I say, “The apples spilled, pick them back up” the word betokens individual apples. If I say, “The apples spilled, stack them back up” the word betokens boxes or crates of apples. If I say, “turn on your apple and check your e-mail.” the word betokens an apple computer or even an apple I phone. You can see that the word “apple” is really related not to a definite concept but more so to the way it is phrased. The Context in which it is used mixed with the many definitions of apple in today’s society gives apple its rather versatile meanings.

What other things come to mind when we think of “Apple?” well when someone envy’s someone or something they may use the term “apple of my eye.” Others may think of a computer or even a part on the male body “Adams apple.” So far the meanings we have for apple range from...

- Fruit that grows on trees
- An action
- A natural human emotion
- An everyday household appliance
- A human male body part

(Without a doubt there are meanings I have missed. New meanings can arise in new context.)

Words have many meanings because words are connected more to knowledge and beliefs, encapsulated into the stories or theories that constitute cultural models, than they are to definitions. Lots of information based on history and what people do in the world is connected to each word, even a word like “apple.”

There is such a variety of apples such as yellow, red, green apples or sweet, sour, dry or moist apples small, medium and large apples so why are they all considered apples? ¹Lots of information is picked up in conversation and in our dealings with texts and the media; not all or even most of it is attained in school. Some people know more or less of this information than do others. And, since history and what people do change, meanings change, as well. Meanings are ultimately rooted in negotiations between different social practices with different interests by people who share or seek to share some common ground. The negotiations which constitute meaning are limited by values emanating from “communities”, or from attempts by people to establish and stabilize, perhaps only for here and now, enough common ground to agree on meaning. “Meaning is something we negotiate and contest over socially.” So we have developed a viewpoint (a theory) that the meanings of words.

1. Can vary across contexts of use.
2. Are composed of changing stories, knowledge, beliefs, and values that are encapsulated in cultural models, not definitions.
3. Are matters of social negotiations rooted in culture if only in the broad sense of a search for common ground.

¹ (“gee” words and their meanings)

So to complete this trail in my area 111X class, I have been asked to make a connection between the word apple and at least 2 other words that others in my class have chosen. These words that I have randomly chosen are "crime" and "justice". So here I begin my short rhetoric on why these words are similar... So at first glance when I saw I had chosen apple to compare to the word "crime" or "justice" I rolled my eyes and may have had a small heart-attack. Then I realized they are just words no reason to be stressed out. And like all words these words are not bound by fixed definitions in the English language.

Words such as justice depending on how it is spelled can mean completely different things. If I say "It's just-us staying after class," the word takes on the form of whoever says it and at least one other. If I say, "Those clothes really do you justice," the word takes the form of someone's opinion of what another is wearing. And if I say "show him justice" you would have to add further context to know the meaning I'm using for the word "justice".

The next word I chose "Crime", is obviously much more related to "justice," than "Apple" is, but before I compare the Three words, let me use this word in a few different contexts to show a bit of its diversity. So if I were to say "He stole something that is a crime" what I'm talking about is someone took something that is not theirs and that's against the law. If I say "that should be a crime!" what I really mean is I don't agree with "that" and wish they couldn't do it. The word Crime relates to the word justice fairly easily when you're talking about them in the context of the law, Even the word apple relates this way. It all makes sense if I say "the man was charged with a "crime" when the police got his "Apple" Phone the district Attorney says he will be brought to "justice".

The point I would like to get across to the readers in this class is that language is not as simple as it seems no word has a fixed meaning or definition and as time goes on words and their meanings change with time like they have been doing forever. Old meanings never disappear and misunderstandings will always be there. And remember only you can give power to a word by using it, or change a definition of a word. So spread the word ☺!!!

The End

Dear, Governor Dunleavy

This letter is regarding monetary bail and its purpose in our seemingly objective court system. My name is Charles Wells I'm prisoner here in Fairbanks Correctional Center. I would like to show you from my point of view coming from a lower class family what it's like when a dollar amount is put on my freedom. What it's like when a man with the same or more serious charges is able to go home to his family or go home to her job or just be given the chance to fight their case from the outside where it's much easier to maneuver. While I must sit as an innocent prisoner because I do not have enough money to bail myself out.

I do not seek sympathy from this letter I seek justice from the same people who support our civil rights and believe we should be treated equal. Recently senate bill 91 passed and it says everyone will be given reasonable bail. Well I ask this, what does that mean? I do not intend to offer you problems without offering solutions that is why I say this. The only bail that could be considered reasonable if there must be a monetary bail would be one based off an annual income and the severity of the crime, and again I must express the fact when you put a monetary bail on someone and they post it, just posting it is enough to severely cripple most people to the point of not being able to function as civilians anyway. Monetary bail is flawed.

Another point I would like to make is based off (Bourree Lam "Is Bail Causing Convictions") and (Arpit Gupta, Christopher Hansman, Ethan Frenchman "The Heavy Costs of High Bail"). It explains the fact that the longer a person resides in jail or prison the more likely they are to commit more crimes, based off this research there is potential that the justice system is helping create crime by simply putting a dollar amount on a human's freedom to fight allegations from his home.

The last point I would like to make is the fact that fighting allegations from jail is much harder than from the freedom of society. I would like to make it very clear I do not support crime, I am aware no monetary bail leaves room for people to re-offend. The people who choose to re-offend if given a chance to reenter society and fight allegations from "the street" were going to do so anyway and nothing would have changed that. So yes, no monetary bail gives bad people the chance to do bad and those people will end up back in jail without another chance at bail. On the other hand this concept also allows good people the chance to fight their charges and gives them every chance to succeed in proving their innocents.

I have a strong belief monetary bail is an unjust law because it's morally wrong to favor the rich over the poor and should be addressed for the reasons stated above. I may be pending charges in a prison but everything I said in this letter is based on facts so weather or not its objective or subjective makes no difference—meaning I am not rebel rousing with rhetoric—only expressing my concerns with the facts I have observed.

Thank you for reading please respond at-

1931 Eagan avenue

Fairbanks Ak, 99701

Charles Jeffrey Rae Wells

Dear next class

I wrote this letter with great enthusiasm. When I was writing this letter I was inspired by my own situation and those around me. I was sitting and thinking to myself "Hmmm why is it almost everyone I see in jail is either broke or poor?" When I thought about this for a period of time I came to the conclusion that most people that have money to spare, for some reason, don't have to fight there charges from a pretrial facility. But what was the reason?

It turns out the "Just-us" system favors the rich over the poor. "Real fair right?" No Its not right its immoral. Oh well what can i do about it I'm just an inmate. Oh yeah I wrote a letter that was inspired be our current bail system. So I write this letter and it begins to take better and better shape as I write each draft and go over it in group with my Area 111.X class. I begin to think of more reasons why people fighting allegations from a pretrial facility are at a disadvantage vs. people that have the advantage of freedom to fight there allegations. What I came up with blew my mind at the time. Here I had this letter that I thought could CHANGE THE WORLD! Some of my ideas I was told there would be supporting data on and this only added **FULE TO MY FIRE!**

I received the supporting data and sure enough it was spot on. After a few more days I finished my final draft I gave it to my lawyer he kind of dismissed it wrong time and place for feedback☺, it was in the court room. Nothing ever came of that. Then I found out Alaska senate bill 91 had already made changes similar to what was in my letter.

I admit I was disheartened over it at the time due to this discovery I made a mistake, I did not send my letter to anyone... I put all that work into trying to make a change and didn't do the easiest part. Put the letter in the mail, what would the world be like right now if martin Luther king jr never put a letter in the mail? So my message to the next class that reads this commentary/follow up on this assignment would be if you do the work and you believe your cause just, make a change, distribute your argument and beliefs, **AND BE HEARD!!** You won't regret it.

Charles Wells

"The Way Out"

I remember when I first started this class, man I had no idea what was going on. The way the class works, it's on a cycle and the cycle consist of various trails and on these trails are different assignments. The way you start 3 of the 4 trails is by putting words on paper, the way to finish these trails is to incorporate your writing in some way with the class. What I'm going to do is list, then describe my experience with the 4 trails.

1. Language trail
2. Letters trail
3. Stories trail
4. Inside outside collaborative

So I'm going to start with my experience with the inside/outside collaborative because that's where I entered this class. So on this trail there are 3 cohorts, each has a different assignment. I was there for each. I had no idea what was going on and by the end of the day despite my efforts I was still lost. No fear though so was everyone else. As a group we worked hard together and once we got on the same page it all worked out. The first cohorts job was to create a topic of writing to relate with the outside. The second cohort's job was to help this "topic" take shape and present it to the outside. And the third cohort's job was to assess the data received from the outside. The key to this trail is to keep an open mind and be patient. We're a group work together.

Next up is the language trail; one of my favorite parts of this trail was learning that there is no set definition on any one word, also that all words have a story behind them. Like people words are created and change with time. Anyways, I found the key to being successful during this trail is to read all the reading material and handouts you get "thoroughly." As long as you understand the handouts you can't fail.

The Letters trail for me was the most emotional. This trail started out for me with the reading of "Martin Luther King jr's" letter from "Birmingham jail" during his incarceration there. I can honestly say that this was one of the most moving letters I have ever read. The letter moved me most not just because Dr. King rationally responds to the clergymen's letter with grace, but was able to infuse a warning, "Times are changing if you can't keep up with it get out of the way."

So for the first assignment of the stories trail was the story of myself, It consist of exactly what it sounds like, we write stories of ourselves and share them with the class. This trail is when you get to learn the most about others and in some cases a bit about ourselves. I'm not going to lie this trail was my least favorite because there wasn't really any reading handouts. My tips to the people in this class on this trail is to grit your teeth, push through and don't get stuck on this trail.

As you can see above I named this trail "The Way Out". I named my letter this because graduating this class is a formal acknowledgement that I can write letters. I've always had anxiety writing letters, finishing this class gives me a way out from that anxiety. For me this is just a beginning to something more, And for others this means they will get letters back☺. I no longer have any problem writing and I'm a better man because of it. For some this class is just a stepping stone. For me it's a corner stone and It can be for you too just put forth the effort take time to learn the material. It's worth it... Trust me.....