

Chyenne Osondu

Professor Harrison

English 21002: Writing for the Social Sciences

17 February 2022

### Spreading my Wings

Dear everyone,

Starting off our semester at City College is nerve-racking. Besides transitioning from high school we also have to learn how to experience new things, like exploring Harlem and meeting new people. Needless to say, starting off my Spring 2022 semester (in-person) at CCNY was not as bad as I thought it to be. Adapting to the school layout became easier and my comfortability rose slightly. Although I have not started any new friendships, hopefully by writing this letter I am able to open an opportunity of trust between my peers and professor.

Something that people often do not know about me is that I am into self-love/growth. Personally, I define self-love as being content with what you do and do not have. To love yourself is to accept all of your features. Although, it is important to note that self-love does not limit you to being happy 100% of the time. For instance, just because I love myself does not mean I do not have insecurities. There are things most of us dislike about ourselves whether that be the way our body looks, how we talk, style our clothes, etc. However, to be in a state of love is to be unconditionally giving. You give yourselves room for mistakes. Same as you would to a toddler learning how to walk for the first time. We have to accept that we are not always our best. We say humans making mistakes is normal, yet, some of us beat ourselves up for it every time.

In fact, according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the highest level of the chart deals with self-actualization. This is the stage where we strive to be our best versions of ourselves.

However, I would argue that there is no ultimate stage where you become 100% happy with yourself. One reason is that we learn new things about ourselves every day. We also meet new people and experience things that can shape who we are. Self-love (to me) is more so about the process than the end result.

Given this, I have been able to conceptualize love through the use of astrology and my relationship with God. Born on June 27 I am a Cancer (sun) with a Gemini moon and Aquarius rising. In the words of astrologists, Cancer represents home life and nurturing/mothering qualities. Gemini represents duality, intellect, and communication. Uniqueness and unorthodoxy describe Aquarius. Planets such as the moon, venus, mars, mercury, etc all have their own meanings that correlate to a specific sign (except the rising). The moon is exalted in Cancer meaning that the moon is associated with our intuition and emotions. Having my moon in Gemini means when it comes to how I handle emotions, I rationalize them rather than feel them. For instance, when I am angry, rather than having my blood boil and body tense up, anger is more of a mental dilemma. Understanding why my emotions are taking place is a huge part of having this placement. Although I understand it would be biased to take everything astrologists say literally, I enjoy researching about my birth chart because I personally can relate to it. When it comes to love I would much rather prefer the idea of love than the actual heavy feeling of it. Now I have begun to realize that rationalizing an emotion such as love is pointless as emotions are more irrational in nature.

However, there has been good use in my Gemini and Aquarius placements as it had ironically led me into choosing my major: sociology. As mentioned earlier my rising sign (this

deals with how we present ourselves to the world) is in Aquarius. Thus it is said that Aquarians, in general, are humanitarians. They have a tendency to look at the world at a larger scale, then come up with solutions to help restore humanity. Understanding different theories in sociology allows me to have a wide perspective on the world and myself: viewing society for what it is.

As much as I do not enjoy writing, I appear more skilled in writing and science than math. Last semester I took a pre-calculus course in hopes that I can move onto calculus and pursue chemical engineering. While I was determined to become an engineer there was always a lingering feeling in the back of my mind saying “you know you do not actually want to go through with this major”. This was not a matter of me trying to impress my parents but myself. I have always been a science person, excelling in living environment and chemistry in high school was easier than annotating texts. To me, learning about science is fun and exciting. Going off to the lab made me feel empowered as we used real materials such as sulfate in our experiments. Yet, I failed to understand more intermediate levels of math which is required to get into Grove. Engineering is more so about using math to solve problems than science (which drew me in the first place). I received a D in that class but had A’s in history and English. That is when I realized I was falling in love with the idea of becoming an engineer rather than its reality. I had to do some introspection and be honest with myself: I was not willing to put in the work of solving complex equations. I switched majors from undeclared to sociology about six weeks ago and have not looked back since. Sociology classes are a combination of both writing and science, which I am already (semi) comfortable with.

I also began growing an interest in sociology because of Youtube. I enjoy watching Black history content and when I came across feminist, Kimberly Nicole Foster, and historians, Mikai McDermott and Elexus Jionde, I became more fascinated. While watching their videos I

fell in love with the way they articulated their thoughts, especially when it comes to Black issues. For instance, the video that introduced me to McDermott's channel was about medical racism and how Black women sometimes feel insecure about seeking treatment from gynecologists. Her video has since been deleted. However, it opened my eyes to deep-rooted issues which impact my community. Seeing women who look like me (and the women in my family) earning degrees in the social sciences made me believe I can do it as well.

Nothing makes me happier than using my creativity and intellect to help others. Some say I overthink everything but this is how I truly see myself in the world. While choosing my major was difficult, I believe that I made the right choice. As of now, I am not sure where I would want to use my degree. However, no matter where I end up, I hope to utilize my skills to educate others about society whether that be through education or writing. It is up to me now to enjoy that process.

Sincerely,

Chyenne Osondu