
Retrospective

LETICIA LENKIU

Leticia Lenkiu's article, "[The Language Transition Process and Its Influence on Language Use](#)," was published in *Stylus* 8.2 in Fall 2017. She also served as assistant editor for Issues 9.1, 9.2, 10.1, and 10.2 as well as production editor for the *Knights Write Showcase 2018* special issue.

As an immigrant who is very science-oriented, I was very nervous stepping into my first composition course. It was only my second year in the country (and speaking the language). How could I compose multiple essays with an academic perspective I had never even considered before? To my surprise, I started feeling more at ease when the seemingly daunting assignments were broken down into easy-to-manage pieces. Week by week, I gained a new appreciation for the development of writing and its personalities. Through the semester, the curriculum showed me that there is beauty in our differences, and that good writing doesn't have to fit a specific mold. At that moment, my insecurities broke down, and I finally accepted the challenge of exploring the concept of writing.

Once I transitioned to my second composition class, my curiosity had been lit and I was eager to work on my own research. Immediately, I wanted to explore how growing up speaking another language would influence my approach to language. Being a bilingual student who transitioned from speaking Portuguese to solely speaking English influenced a lot about how I write today. To my surprise, I got to explore not just the language aspect of language transition, but also how it built me as a person. Having my article "The Language Transition Process and Its Influence on Language Use" published in *Stylus* in 2017 showed me people are interested in not only my perspective, but also the ones of all bilingual students. Being an immigrant often puts you on the sidelines, and this opportunity moved me to continue exploring different academic conversations and contribute with my unique perspective.

After the publication, I was honored when I was invited to contribute to the journal as a student editor. Reading the different submissions showed me how students take completely different approaches to the same prompt. How everyone brings their uniqueness to the words on the paper. Being part of the process that recognizes students who take the class assignments to the next level is very rewarding. I hope new students entering their composition classes see this opportunity and take advantage of it. The experience of crafting and executing your own research article is beyond helpful regardless of the career you are pursuing. Going through the process of having your ideas published and possibly getting involved with the editorial process is indeed life changing.

Besides from the direct involvement with the publication process of *Stylus*, it is important to note that I still use everything I learned in both composition classes. I always catch myself thinking about how I adapt my language use depending on the discourse community I am with, or even how those communities act as a support to teach me what I know. In addition, as a major of Biological Sciences, we are constantly working on critical thinking skills and the development of research articles. Having the understanding from composition class of how an article is put together was essential for me to excel in the scientific field. For example, once I knew what I was interested in and wanted to study, I used my example of how to write a research proposal acquired in ENC 1102 to write one for my professor and ask them to consider being my primary investigator. Later, I used our activities on how to develop meaningful research questions to effectively come up with the ones I would be using. There are many more examples of how my early exposure to academic writing was

essential to my collegiate success, and I hope new students are able to see that what is learned in ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 can provide you with steppingstones that will be helpful far beyond those classrooms.

As mentioned before, once I started my composition class, I never thought I would be in the position I am today. I was simply a new student, new to the country, speaking broken English. I did my best every assignment and I am so glad I did. My advice for new students would be to not underestimate yourself! Everyone is curious about a certain topic, and everyone has a voice worth hearing. Let your professor know you are interested in submitting your classwork to the *Stylus* and I guarantee you they will support you every step of the way. I took ENC 1101 my first semester at UCF and I wrote this review on my last. *Stylus* and the editing team were there for me every step of the way and am forever grateful to how much they helped build who I am today.

Leticia Lenkiu



Leticia Lenkiu is currently a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences. She will graduate this semester of Spring 2020 and aims to start medical school in the following year. During her undergraduate career, she is most proud of establishing partnerships with over 50 Brazilian universities to provide blood pressure screenings and heart health information to the homeless population of Brazil. Leticia is passionate about preventative health and expects to contribute to the leadership of global medicine.