Student Taskscapes: Understanding CUNY Undergraduates' Lived Experiences

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ACERT Lunchtime Seminars
Hunter College
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Pencils ready?

1. Take 2 minutes to sketch a map of your learning spaces
   - It's what "learning spaces" means to you.
   - Don't worry about the quality of the drawing!

2. Label the features on your map

Pair and Share with your Neighbor

- What do you notice in your drawing?
- Where do you do your best work?
- What spaces aren't a good fit for you?
- What kinds of tools do you use for your work?

Share Out

If you'd like to share, tell us about your map.

- What do you notice in your drawing?
- Where do you do your best work?
- What spaces aren't a good fit for you?
- What kinds of tools do you use for your work?

Taskscapes

"as the landscape is an array of related features, so, by analogy, the taskscape is an array of related activities"

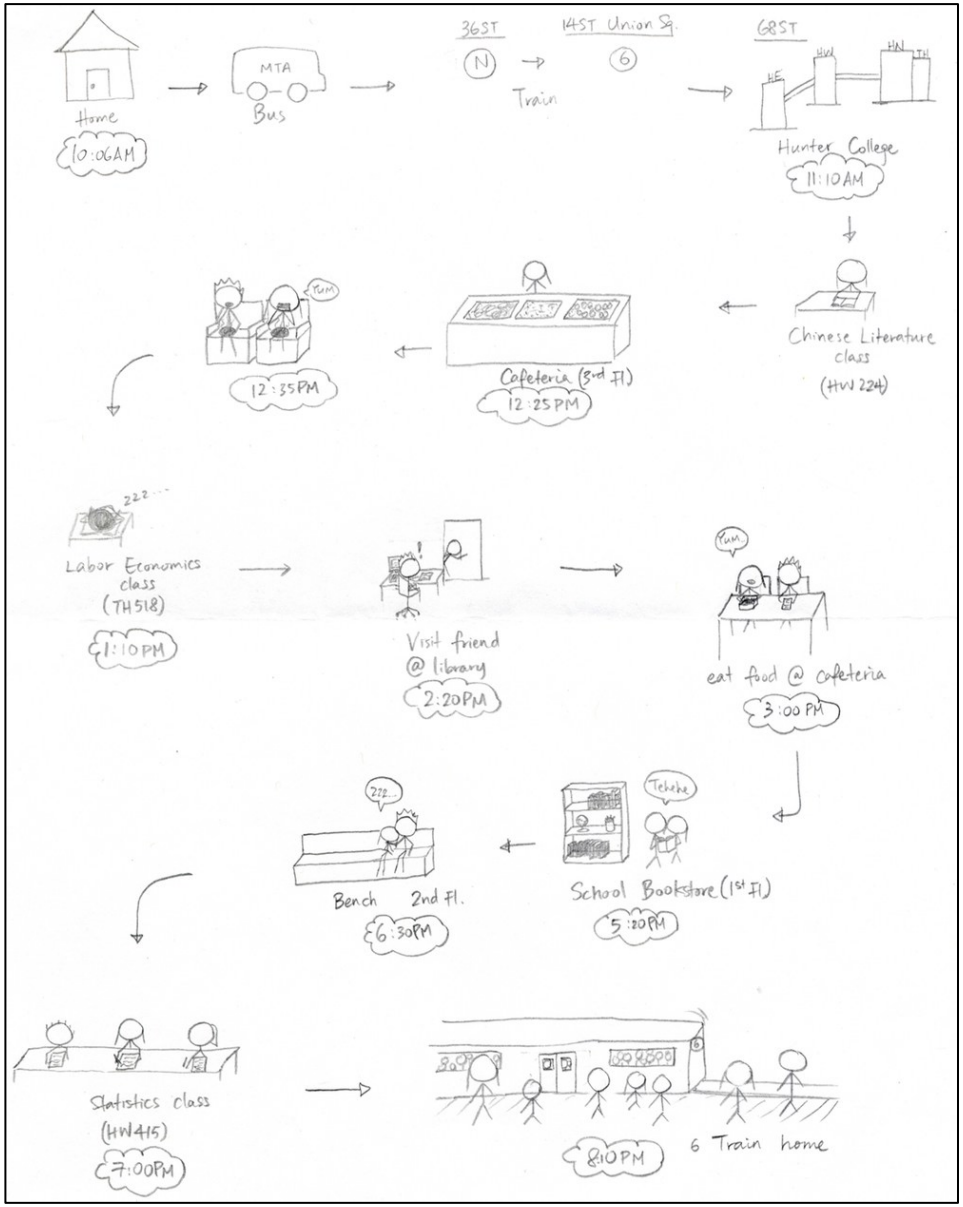
"the temporality of the landscape"

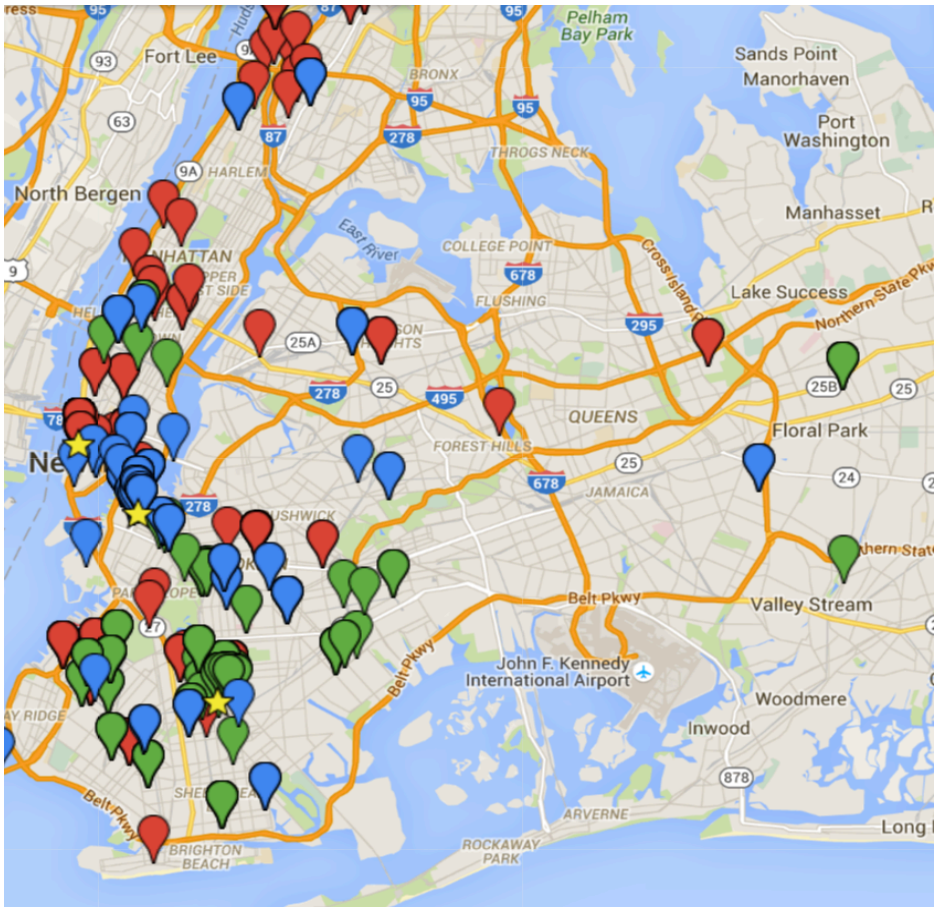
"the taskscape exists not just as activity but as *inter*activity"

Our Research

2009-2011: photo surveys, mapping diaries, retrospective research process interviews, faculty interviews

2015-2016: mapping diaries, tech-specific interviews, student/faculty questionnaire on hybrid/online courses


Home
10:06AM
MTA
Bus
36ST
N
14ST Union Sq.
6
Train
68ST
HE
HW
HN
TH
Hunter College
11:10AM
Chinese Literature class
(HW 224)
Cafeteria (3rd Fl)
12:25PM
Yum
12:35PM
Labor Economics class
(TH518)
1:10PM
Visit friend @ library
2:20PM
Yum
eat food @ cafeteria
3:00PM
Tehehe
School Bookstore (1st Fl)
5:20PM
Bench 2nd Fl.
6:30PM
Statistics class
(HW415)
7:00PM
8:10PM
6 Train home

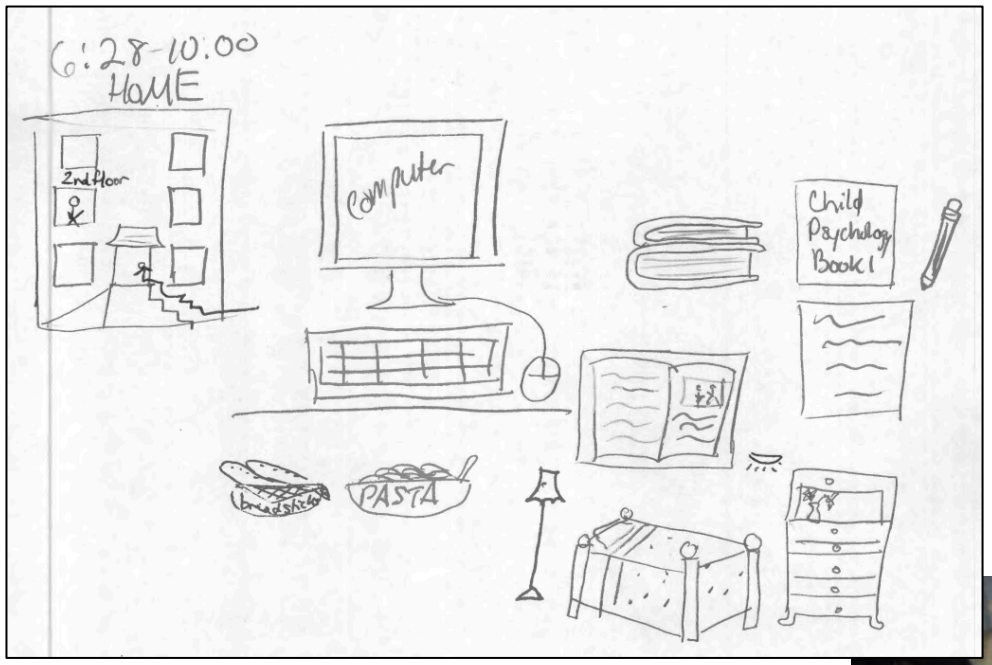

Fort Lee
North Bergen
Pelham Bay Park
Sands Point
Manorhaven
Port Washington
Manhasset
Lake Success
Floral Park
Valley Stream
Woodmere
Inwood
John F. Kennedy International Airport
QUEENS
FLUSHING
COLLEGE POINT
THROGS NECK
BRONX
HARLEM
FOREST HILLS
JAMAICA
ARVERNE
ROCKAWAY PARK
BRIGHTON BEACH
East River
Belt Pkwy
Cross Island
Northern State Pkwy

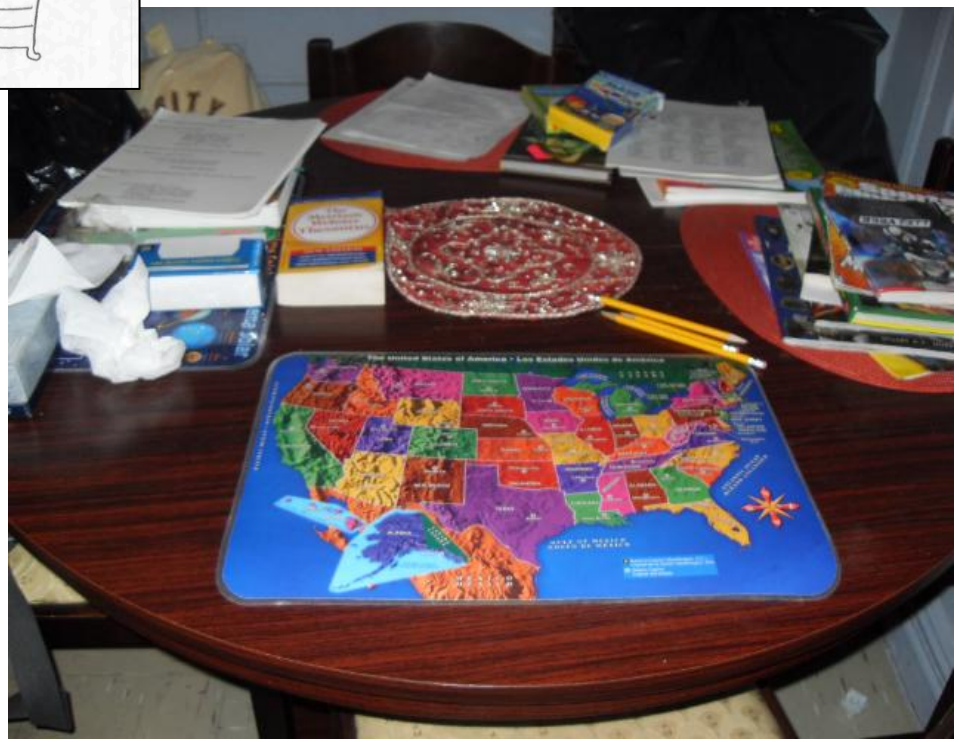
What have we learned about

- where students do their academic work,
- the technology they use to do their work, and
- their process for doing research?

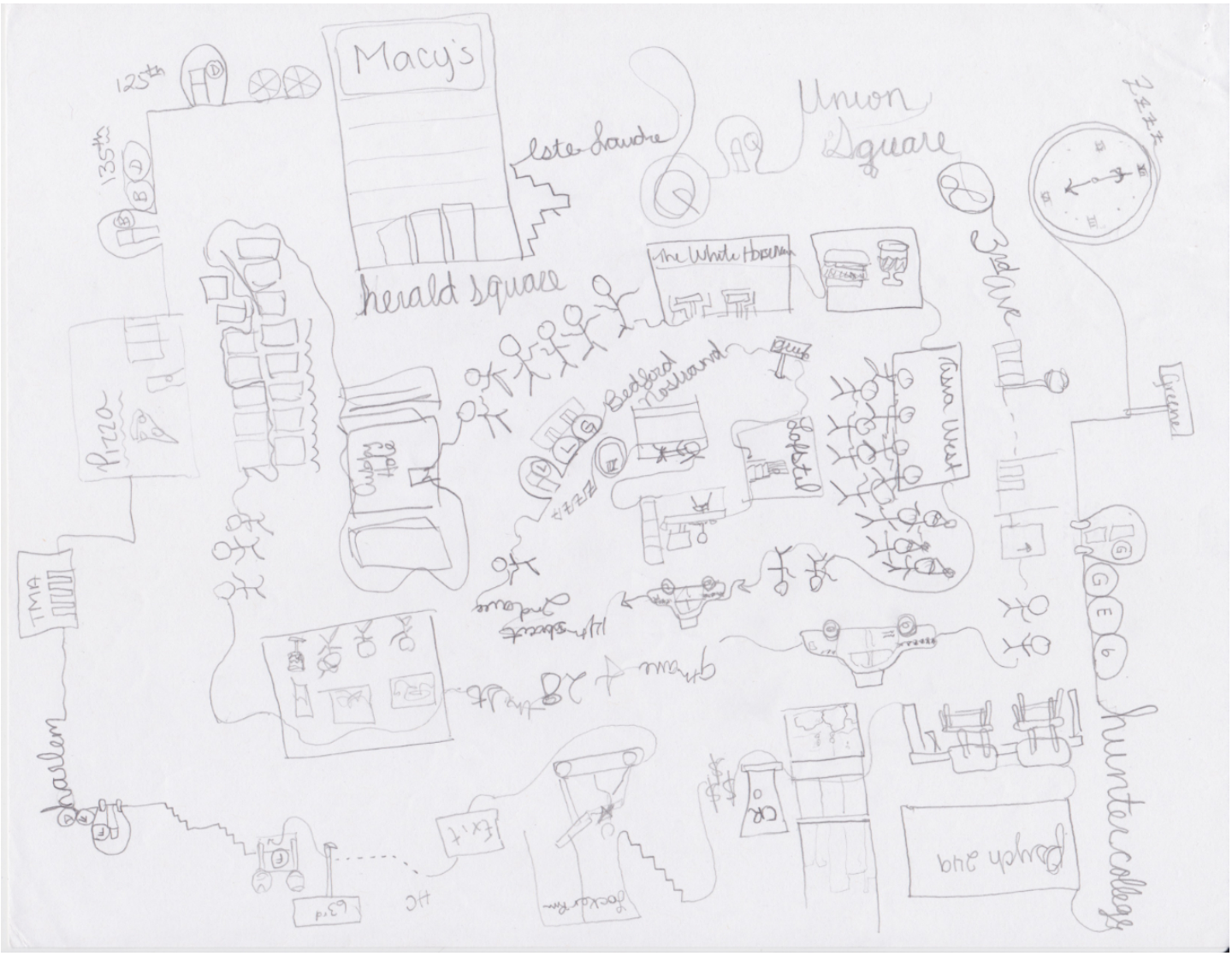
(that is, their taskscapes)

AT HOME


6:28-10:00
HOME
2nd Floor
Computer
Child Psychology Book 1
PASTA



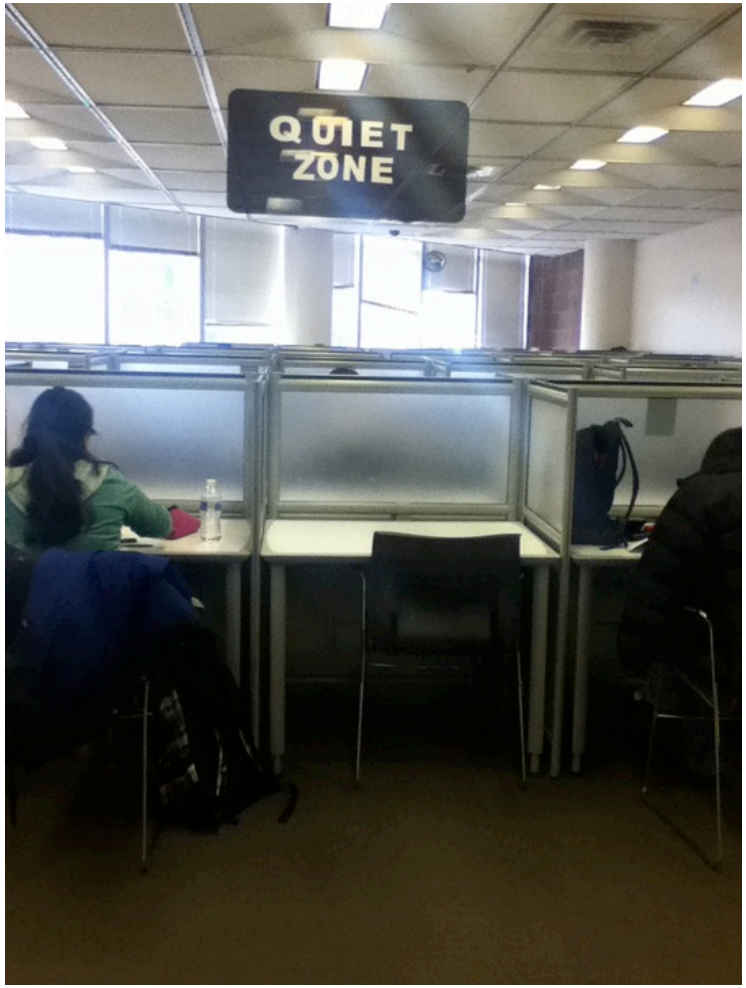
ON THE MOVE


Macy's
125th
135th
Herald square
Union Square
3rd ave
Pizza
Subway
Lexington
Bedford Lexington
Lobster
Times West
The White Horse
Harlem
hunter college
Exit
Dutch 2nd

5716
New York City Bus 5716

Bus Ride
Reading
Highlighting

IN THE LIBRARY


QUIET
ZONE

L-II

Marriages & Families
PARENTING

Intentionality

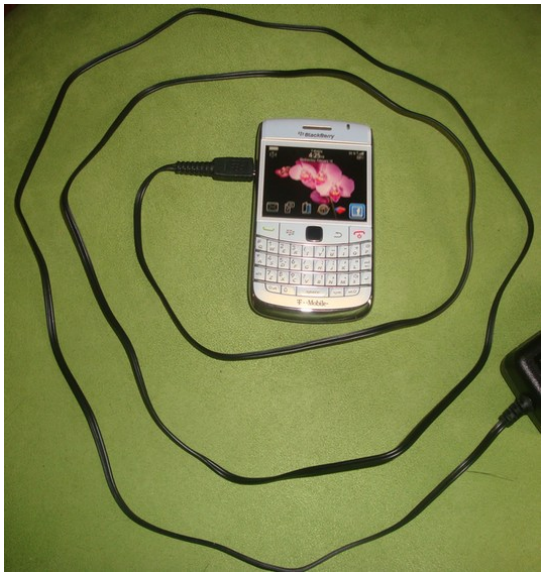
"When I go home, I get distracted easily.

Here, it's very quiet, you know,
you can't be loud, you can't talk.

So I like being under those rules here.

I can concentrate a lot better,
and I'm actually doing a lot better now
in school than last semester."

SMARTPHONES



“My smartphone. I am able to access my grades, type up a paper, review a power point, etc. in the palm of my hand.”

“I personally don't use a smartphone or tablet for schoolwork but have been present numerous times while my friends’ work was **deleted** or **would not upload** from one of these devices.”

AT THE COMPUTER LAB

“My first year, I didn’t have the Microsoft Word application so I couldn’t type essays. So I would spend HOURS on hours sitting here and trying to focus while people are chewing gum and talking on the phone and arguing and hitting each other. It says it’s a ‘Learning Resource Center’ but in actuality it’s a ‘Hang Out With Your Friends and Look at Your Cousin’s Wedding Pictures Center’ . . . ‘on Facebook.’”

Student Resource Center
"We are Here to Serve You Better!"
TH 202
ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE LAB!!
NO
CELL PHONES!
NO PRINTING
LAB 2
Computers
Internet
Printing
Copying
LAB 1
Computers
Internet
Printing
Copying
LOUNGE
Microwaves
Games
TV
Video Games

SYSTEMS AND WIFI

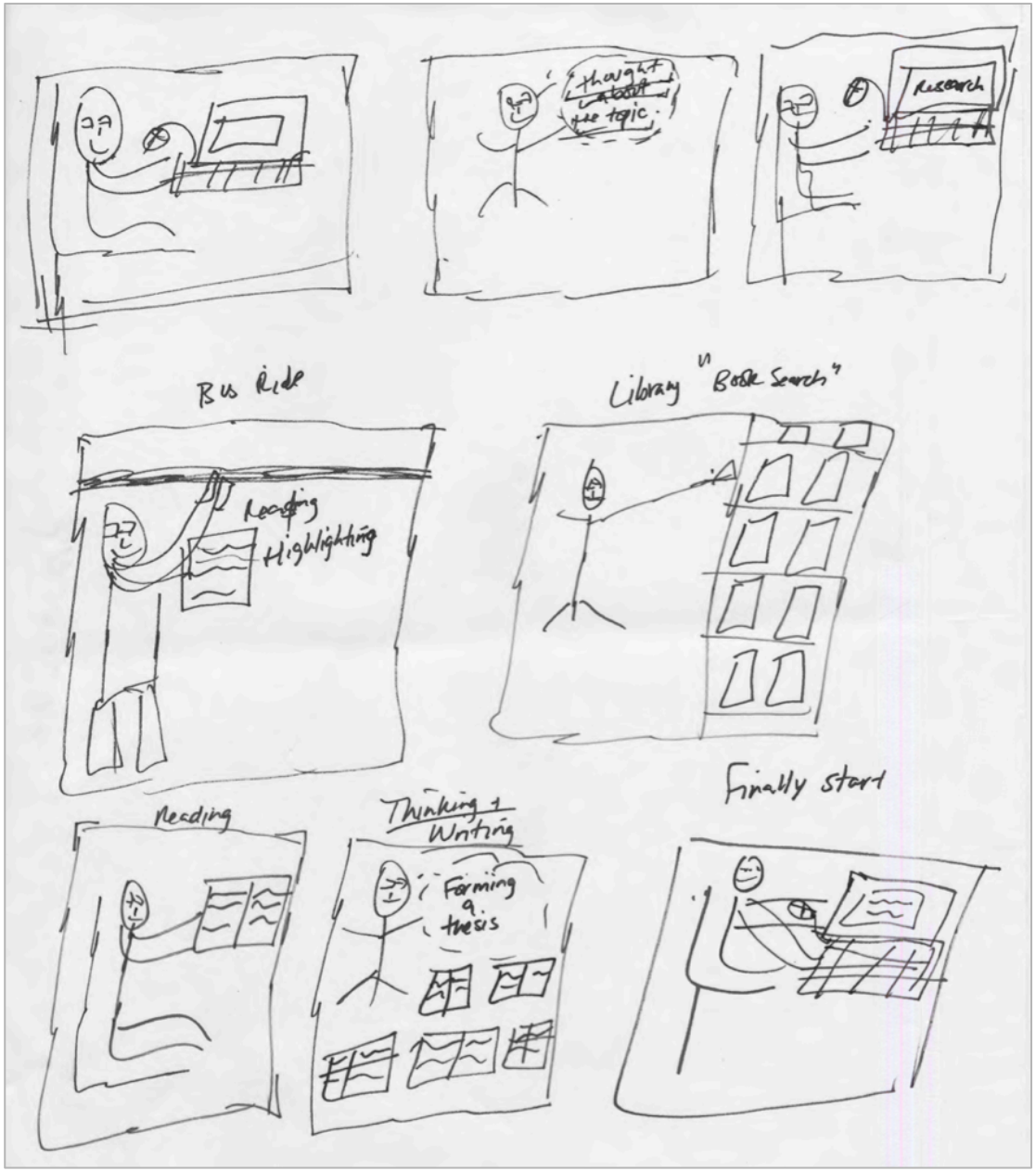
“I would make sure that
the website being used
never has to be ‘under construction’
and I would make sure it is
always running as quickly and
efficiently as possible.”

“The most frustrating thing is our schools wifi. When in on campus trying to watch our videos it doesn't load properly,
it will pause frequently.”

Technology is critical

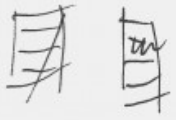
"Enhance everything so that it's always fast and never crashes"

STUDENT RESEARCH PROCESS

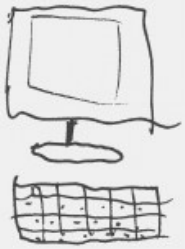

thought about the topic
Research
Bus Ride
Reading
Highlighting
Library "Book Search"
Finally start
Reading
Thinking + Writing
Forming a thesis

Day 1

Coming up with idea



Brainstorming



Research

Day 2 - Day 20

Lazy Period

Day 21

relization

Day 22

Back brainstorming

Day 23 - 28

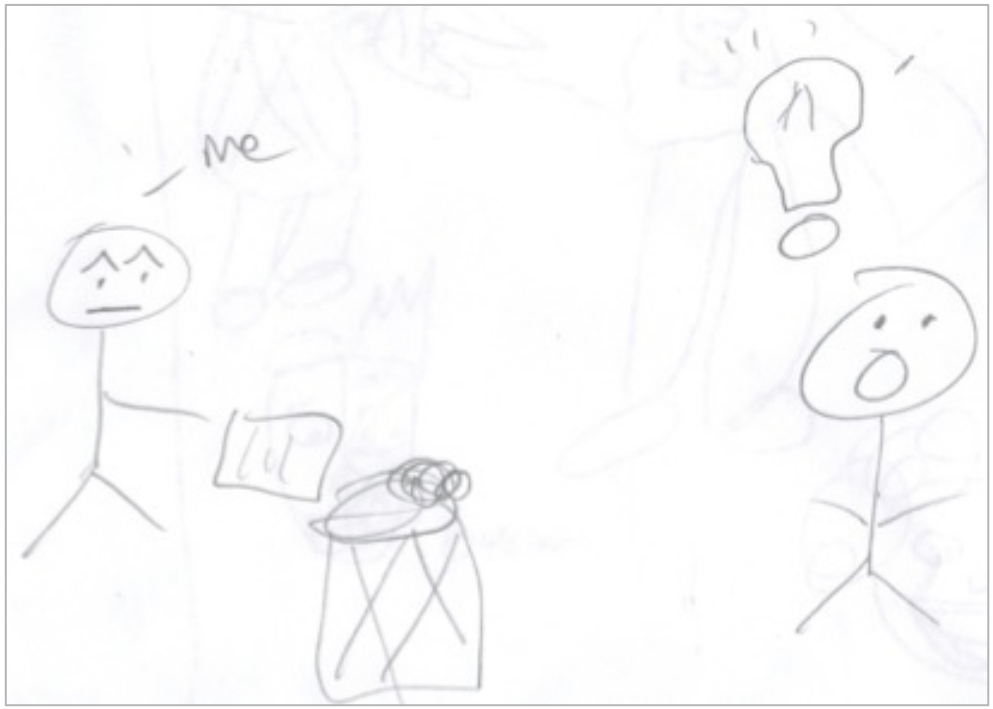
Refrantic Period

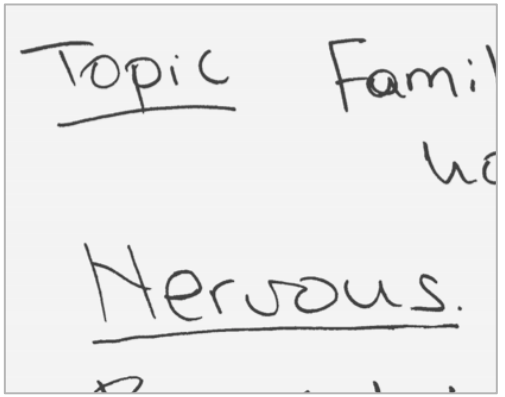
Day 29

Lack of sleep

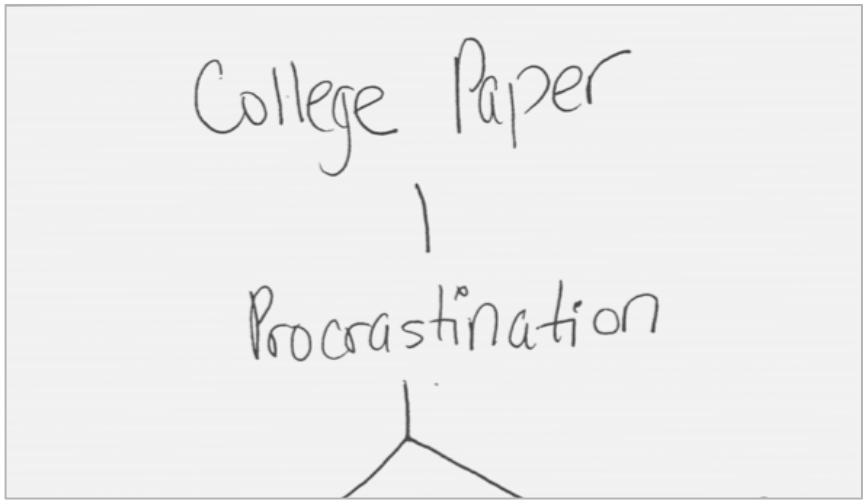
Day 30

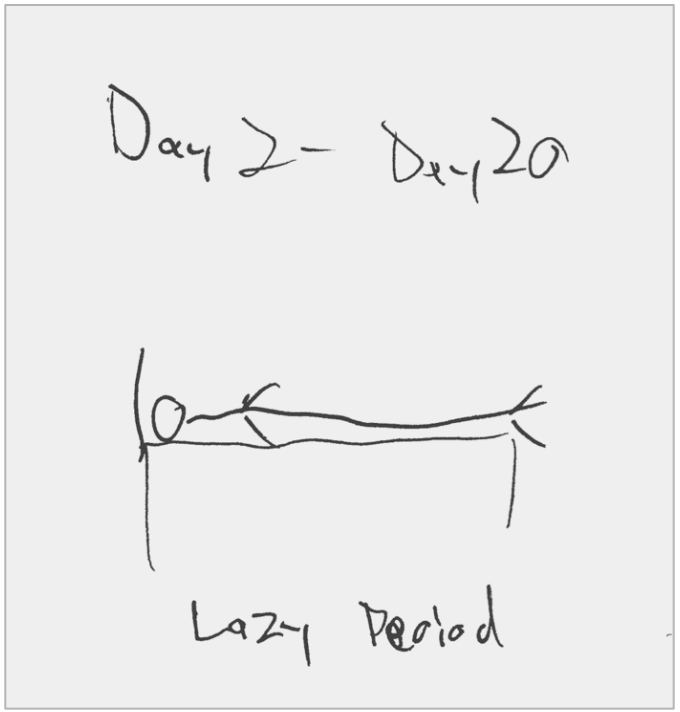
Relief



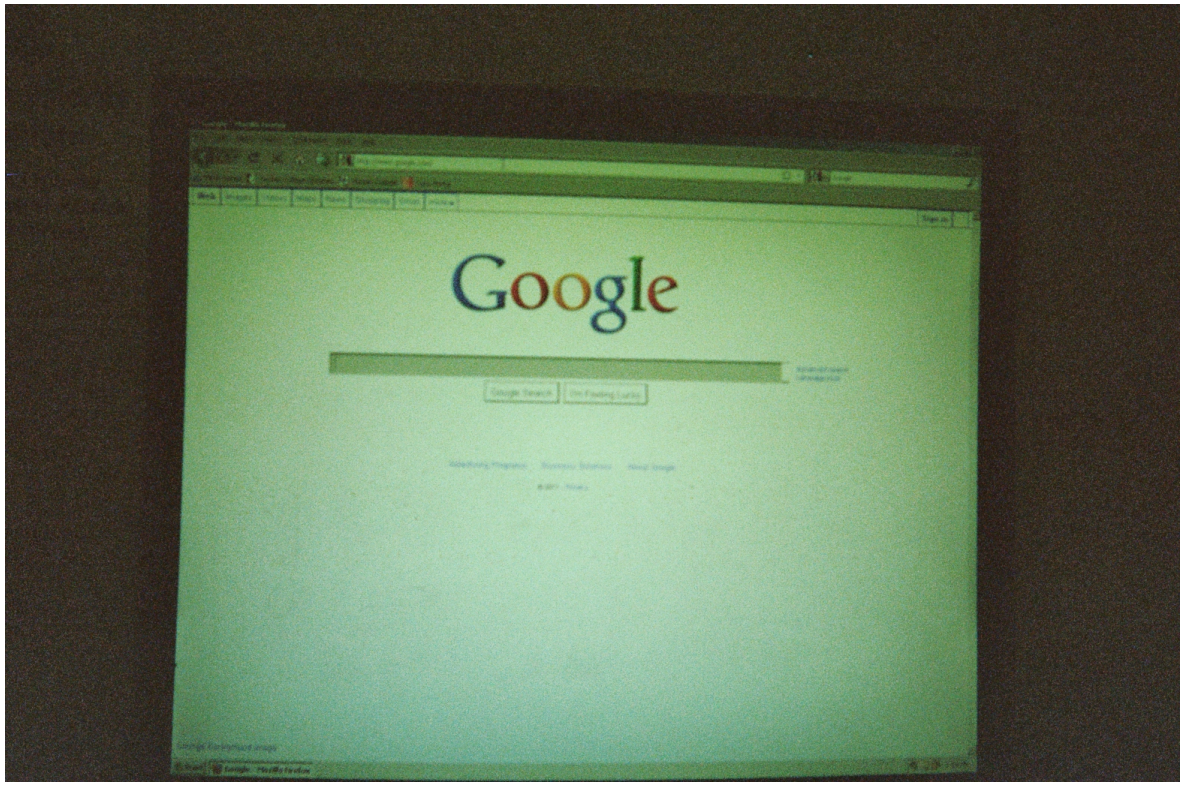


“Once I got the idea of what I wanted to write about, let's see, that was quick.”



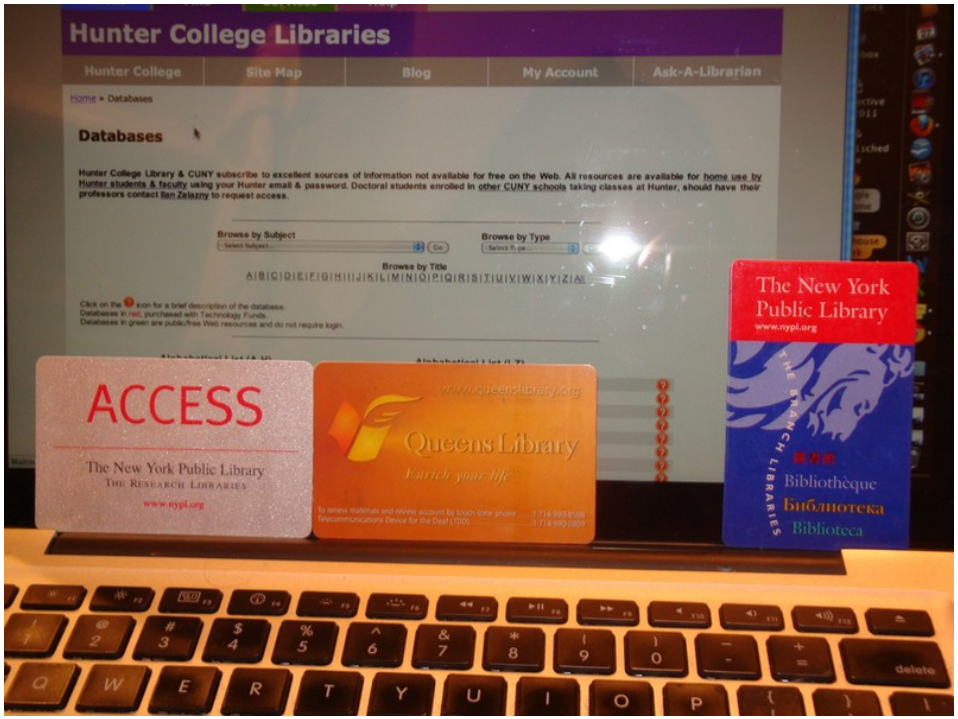


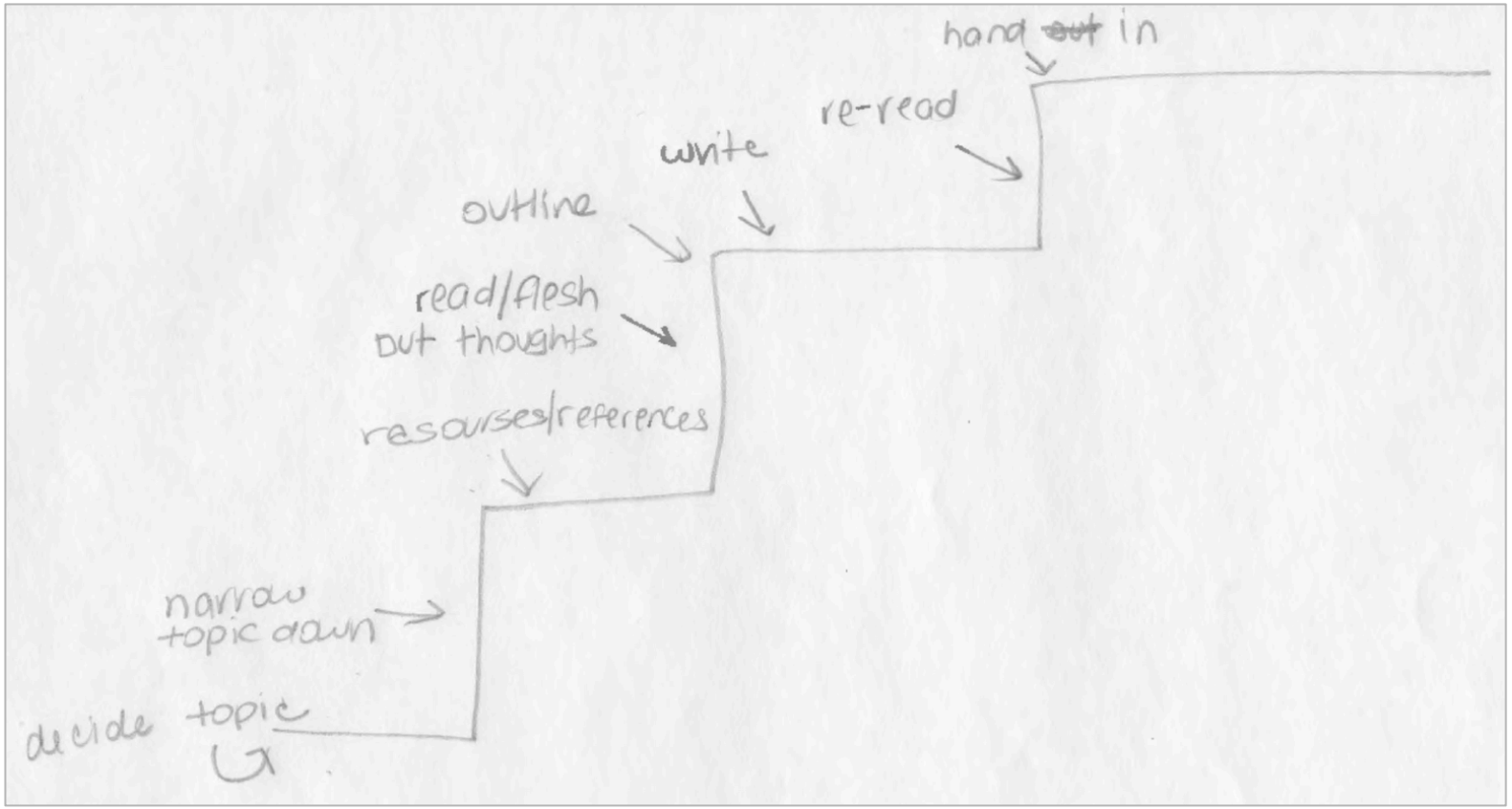
“No, I waited a little bit, you know. Because I wanted to make sure I had a nice grasp of what we were doing.”



“The next part was **trying to navigate the CUNY website** which did run me into about **two or three hours worth of a headache**, followed by another **fifteen minutes on Google**, where immediately it was the **first link**.”

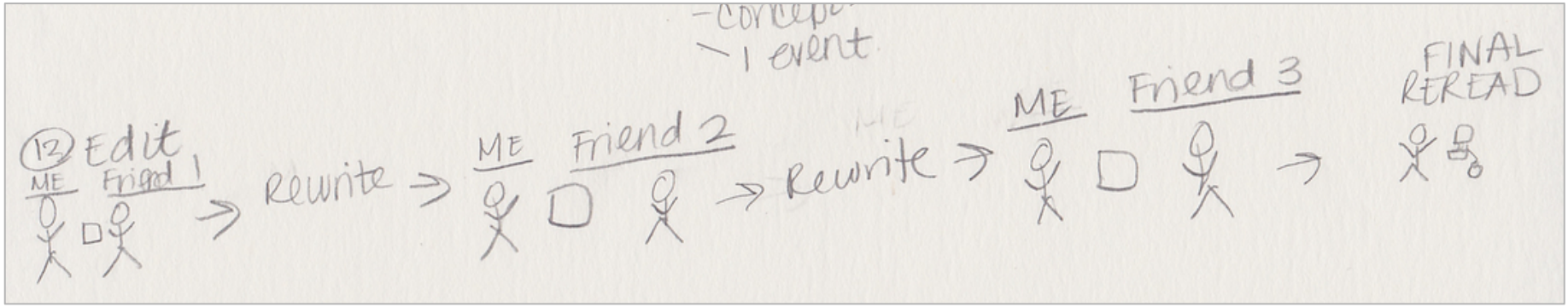
“[The librarians have] helped me searching, like, what's the better way to search for a term which is kind of interesting 'cause I didn't think that would really help my research but it does.”





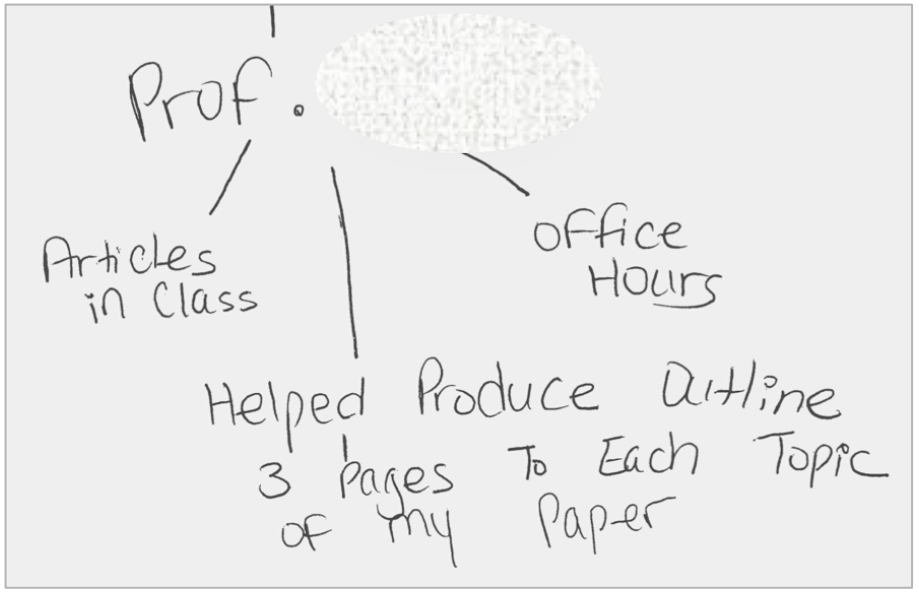
“This sort of forced me to do each little step and report back constantly to the teacher. The orchestratedness of it allowed me to not procrastinate.”

"[In class workshopping] was interesting 'cause I, like, reading other people's work, and especially when we're in the same class, you know? I don't . . . I mean, we didn't wanna be too critical and mark up our classmate's papers . . . And the feedback was good, like, what they thought of it."



"**I don't get as much help as I would like** . . . So right now I'm writing a research paper and . . . I actually wanted someone to look over it with me, but **the library doesn't do that**, the other **Writing Center does** that and they're always so full 'cause **there's not enough tutors**."

"[Writing tutors] explain it more easily than the professors."



What can we do?

- ask our students!
- be flexible wherever possible
- advocate for access and support
- connect and collaborate across campus

Thank you!

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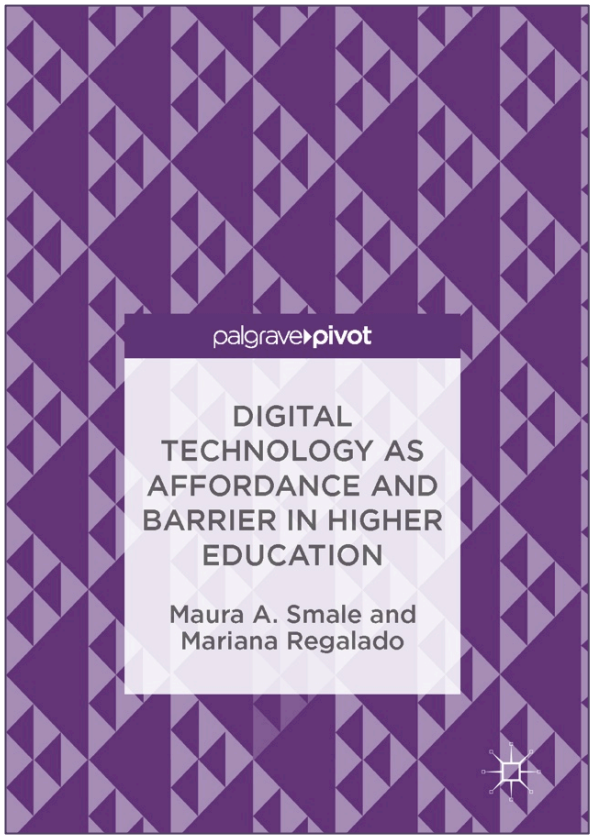
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