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First Blog Entry

Posted February 21, 2014 at 9:25 am by [Jason McAuliff](#)

So I am to write a blog entry from the perspective of the non-traditional student. Someone in the English department must have decided I wasn't looking nearly as self-conscious as in semesters past and thought the fastest path back to awkwardness would be to have me put my non-tradtionalness in writing and then put that writing on public display. I am an undergraduate over the age of forty and this makes me a non-traditional student. Thanks for reminding me, but since my cover is blown maybe some good can come from this. My hope is that potential students who also fall into the non-traditional category will read this and think to themselves, if he did it then it can't be all that difficult. There would be no truer thinking than this.

When I first began this less than epic journey roughly two and a half years ago, my primary concern was technological. This concern was not unfounded. While I foresaw some of the problems I would encounter (I hadn't used Word in about a decade) most of the problems came as a surprise. Things like turning papers in online and properly citing all these new sources of information was daunting at first. As I got the hang of it, I started to feel better about technology in the classroom and stopped worrying that my papers would be lost forever in an Internet black hole. It does still make me a little sad that no one needs to go to the library anymore, but then again, whatever book I am looking for is almost never checked out, so it isn't all bad.

Fast forward to the here and now with graduation right around the corner. I am not only using things like Google sites and Google docs and wiki pages, I am using them at a pretty high comfort level. And while this won't earn me so much as a polite golf clap in most circles, at least I know how far I have come. So, if you're thinking about coming back to school after an extended time away from the academic world, stop thinking and go for it.

About the blogger

My name is Jason McAuliff and I am a senior here at USF St. Pete. I am an English major with a concentration in writing who harbors hopes of continuing my education in an MFA program in the not too distant future. I love creative writing of all kinds, but am currently focused on the short story.