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English 201

### “Life is Real”: Personal Politics of Public Writing”

Gabriel Garcia Marquez is a Colombian writer who was awarded Nobel Prize in Literature. When I was 13 years old, I was introduced to his amazing work. It was my Spanish class in middle school where the professor assigned a book of Garcia Marquez to be read. The book is called *The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor* and it tells the wonderful story of a sailor who was washed overboard and survived thanks to a raft and his imagination.

Garcia Marquez writing style is a influence in the kind of writer I want to become. His writing is simple, yet interesting and full of details. It can transport you to the location of the story and let you live it as your own. I would love him to write a story about a dance, just to describe those three to four minutes of dancing. I am sure he is the only one who can achieve a successful story out of it. Even though he does speak about social and political issues, this is not the focus of his writing, or at least he knows how to do it without being too obvious. For me, that is very important, because when I buy a book and take the time to read it, it is because the story called my attention, not the author's political complaints. His subtle way of presenting a conflict is impeccable and since I started reading his work, it is a motivation to do the same.

Another event that sharpened my identity as a writer was when my family moved to another country. Even though I was speaking the same language in this new country, the culture is completely different. These changes make me a very critical writer, which is not a bad thing, but as Garcia Marquez, I try to be objective and subtle in my writing presentation.

To be able to transport a person to a fictional place is a powerful tool, and that is exactly what I want to do everytime I write. It can be a poem, a short story or a text message. How amazing it is to describe, for example, a pen in five pages! What can you write about? Are you able to bring a person to an empty space where there is only a pen and nothing else? Well, that is the power of writing.

My writing goal is to keep a honest writing style, full of life and concreteness for a person who reads my work for first time to be able to get into my mind and see the same images I had when I was writing that piece. At the same time, I don't want the reader to be more interested in me as an author than the story itself. My voice, points of view about politics, religions or anything else should be well addressed, yes, but deeper than that is for a memoir.

