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Kelsey Taylor  
English 1101  
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Remember Robin Williams's second Academy Award-nominated film Dead Poets' Society? It was a film about a teacher who encouraged students to think on their own and push boundaries. I hope you do, because this might get confusing if you don't. I like to think Ms. Taylor's class was a tame version of that film. High school taught us that there was only one correct way to write: one introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph that recaps the entire essay. For 12 years, this is how my fellow students and I wrote our essays. However, on the first day of English 1101, Ms. Taylor threw us a curveball. She introduced us to the theme of the class ("**Question everything**") and said it was time for us to find our own voices in our writing. This is the first time I've known an English teacher who gives us, the students, so much power. We have learned to find our audiences and write about topics we truly are interested in. With this in mind, I thought it was only fair to compare her to the great Mr. Keating (Robin Williams's character from the film) while shining the light on everything I've learned this semester. I have chosen the closing scene from the movie, in which our protagonist, newly released from his position, has an opportunity to observe his students apply the lessons he taught them in the face of an oppressive administrator. Please enjoy..

#### DEAD WRITERS' SOCIETY

A Parody  
Written By  
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**INT. UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA - 3:35-4:25 MWF**

The students are sitting in their seats, murmuring and waiting for class to begin. Mr. Nophun enters, at which point the students abruptly rise to their feet in silence.

MR. NOPHUN

You may be seated.

The students sit immediately back down. Mr. Nophun walks briskly to the front of the class and takes his place at the lectern.

MR. NOPHUN

I will be taking over this class until the end of the semester. Where is your textbook? The one titled: Writing is Not For Everyone?

The students don't reply.

MR. NOPHUN

Ms. Stadtklander?

SUMMER

Um, well, it's.. It's..

MR. NOPHUN

Spit it out, child.

SUMMER

Ms. Taylor made us throw it away.

MR. NOPHUN

Throw it.. Away? Please elaborate.

BRADLEY

She said that it didn't line up with her beliefs on writing.. She said that writing is for everyone.

MR. NOPHUN

Then how did you learn? Did you even learn about ethos, pathos, or how to write an I.R.E.?

BRADLEY

We did! But not the traditional way.

MR. NOPHUN

Fine. Well, since there is only one way, I guess we'll have to begin again. Who can tell me the difference between an Oxford comma and a Harvard comma?

Suddenly, a knock on the door interrupts class.

MR. NOPHUN

Enter.

The students turn and are in shock to see who it is: Kelsey Taylor, their beloved teacher.

KELSEY

Hello. Hi guys. I'm sorry to disrupt class. I forgot my water bottle.

MR. NOPHUN

You are quite the wildcard, aren't you, Ms. Taylor? Please hurry. Now, everyone, let's turn to page 24 in your other textbook. We will start by learning why you should be as harsh as possible when reviewing your peers' work.

Kelsey is looking for her water bottle and taking her time, observing with concern what used to be her class.

SHLOKA

Sir, we don't.. Have that book either.

MR. NOPHUN

What do you mean you don't have that book either? You should've purchased this book at the beginning of the year for \$200 at your local bookstore or rented it for only \$198 at the UGA Bookstore.

SHLOKA

Sir, we did but-

MR. NOPHUN

Then I guess for the remainder of the class you'll just have to write an essay!

SHLOKA

About what, Sir?

MR. NOPHUN

**ABOUT THE REVISION PROCESS!** Now start writing.

Kelsey locates her water bottle near the front of the room and walks past her students as she leaves. Then, breaking the silence, Grant stands up and turns to Ms. Taylor, who stops in place and turns to meet his gaze as he speaks.

GRANT

Ms. Taylor, you have to understand! They forced us to confess how you allowed us to write a whole essay on a conspiracy theory!

Mr. Nophun approaches Grant's desk.

MR. NOPHUN

Mr. Johnson, that is enough!

GRANT

They said we were forbidden to write about something so enjoyable!

MR. NOPHUN

Sit down, Mr. Johnson!

GRANT (to Mr. Nophun)

She just wanted us to enjoy writing and  
have an open mind!

Grant sits down. The students look uneasily from Ms. Taylor to Mr. Nophun in nervous anticipation.

MR. NOPHUN

Another outburst like that, Mr. Johnson,  
and you'll be forced to write another  
biography. This time it'll be between  
30-50 words.

GRANT

But sir, no one could write a biography in  
such a small word count! It's unethical!

MR. NOPHUN

SILENCE!

Kelsey stands at the doorway looking at her class. She can't believe what's happening to her students.

MR. NOPHUN (CONT.)

You may leave now, Ms. Taylor. It's time  
for these students to learn what it means  
to be a true writer.

She takes one last look at the room and begins to turn around. As she leaves the room, Agazi stands up on his desk and calls out to Professor Taylor.

AGAZI

I'll question my everything!

MR. NOPHUN

That makes no sense.

Kelsey stops in her tracks and turns to Agazi who is still standing on his desk.

MR. NOPHUN (CONT.)

Ok, Mr. Meijer, you leave me no choice. I want a third revision of your second major assignment essay. Also known as your first revised essay.

As soon as those words leave Mr. Nophun's mouth, Elizabeth climbs atop her desk, faces Ms. Taylor, and confidently says:

ELIZABETH

I'll question my everything!

MR. NOPHUN

Is this some reference I don't get? Ms. Williamson, get off your desk. **Now.**

One after another, Jeff, then Summer, then Bradley all step on top of their desks, stand tall, and look to Ms. Taylor with pride.

MR. NOPHUN (CONT.)

All of you! Stop this at once!

Soon the entire class is standing high above Mr. Nophun and looking over his head to their former teacher.

MR. NOPHUN (CONT.)

ENOUGH! GET DOWN AT ONCE! DON'T MAKE ME  
GET THE DEAN INVOLVED! HE'LL TAKE AWAY  
YOUR FOOTBALL TICKETS!

Kelsey, stunned, stands in the doorway. A smile blossoms across her face, and tears fill her eyes as she sees the lessons she has taught her students so powerfully illustrated by their actions.

KELSEY

You guys... Are awesome.