

ENG 100: First Place

Twelve Weeks in a Seafood Boil

By Tayla Shaver

These past twelve weeks at Western have been like eating seafood boil. You have all these different types of seafood around, but the most important part of a seafood boil is the crab legs. When I first came to Western, I was thinking that the school year would be so easy, like how when first looking at crab legs they look so easy to crack open. I have been always good at math. At the beginning of my math class, I was just coasting through it. Then when I got that first bad test grade, I was upset. It was like when I cracked open my first crab leg and there was no meat inside. I realized that you have to use the special crawl cracker to open the crab leg so you can have meat. So I started to study more than I usually did and went to see the tutors that we have on campus. I finally got the crab meat out of its shell! Oh yeah, and I got my grade in math up, too.

The sausage in a seafood boil was like my Spanish class. It has been really tough because I thought that it was going to be easy. I was taking notes and nothing else, and then the test just exploded in my face. It was like how the juice and seasoning from sausage explodes out when you first bite into it. In high school I was a really big fan of sausage, but coming to WIU, I realized I wasn't such a big fan anymore. Sometimes when you keep eating you don't like, however, the taste will get better. At first, I didn't have good grades in Spanish, but now I've got my grades up in the class, too.

My English, Intro to Business, and African American Playwriting class are the shrimp, potatoes, and crawfish on my seafood boil, and those are my favorite parts about eating seafood boil! If I had to choose just one of those, then it would be the shrimp: my English class. My

teacher is really funny, and the class is very relaxed. It is the last class of my day, and sometimes we get out of early. It is really easy to pass that class, like how the only thing you have to cook shrimp is to boil them instead of cooking in a pan. In English, we just write essays and do grammar practices. I like to do grammar practices. In high school, the only thing we did was read books. My second favorite would have to be the potatoes: African American Playwriting. We just talk and watch movies and videos in that class. I like crawfish, but it can be kind of boring sometimes since you can only eat the tail; in my business class, we just do online work and talk about it in class.

There would be a few lobsters that are equal to the friends that I have made here at WIU. It is very hard to get out the lobsters after you put them in the boiling water, and it's hard to make friends at first when you go to a different school and without the people who you grew up with. When you buy the lobster, you can always ask the seafood man how to cook it. When I chose to go to SOAR, it helped me make friends with a few of those lobsters. When first trying to eat lobster, it was very hard because I really didn't know what I was doing, and when first making new friends, it was hard because I didn't know how others would react. I really didn't know how to make new friends, but now I have some.

Then you could add some corn on the cob to the boil, such as Women in Business and the Good Girl Movement. When you first get the corn on the cob, the corn is hard and frozen. When the corn on the cob is done, you add it to the rest on the boil to and it makes the boil taste better. When I joined these organizations, I was thinking it was going to be hard; for one of them I even had to do an application. After I joined, however, they helped make my first-semester experience very good. I know a lot more people on campus then I did when I first got here.

Finally, the seasoning would be all the variety of people you can meet at the university. The seasoning pieces are everywhere in the boil, and I run into so many different kinds of people around campus! I have learned that you can make your seafood boil spicy, lemon pepper, plain, or whatever flavor you like. It is your choice to join your experience in college and with your seafood boil. It's all your choice.