

Robin Bearss

English 2089

Professor Vaughn

30 November 2016

### Improvement in English

Improvement is necessary to human life. If we had the same capabilities as when we were born, our species would probably not be at the top of the food chain. Improvement is also paired with experience. With practice over time, skills develop naturally and become easier to utilize. I have experienced this contingency in my writings this year. I improved my **quote integration and narrative techniques**, enhanced my ability to revise **and write deeply**, and developed the way I performed primary research. My integration or improvement of these skills has made me a better writer, and I plan on utilizing these skills in my future classes.

Narratives have always been tricky for me to take on. I end up rambling, or spiraling away from my topic of interest. My poor memory certainly doesn't help. The process of writing the first paper that I was assigned was a challenging one; it was a narrative about an important memory in my life. Nevertheless, I overcame the obstacles and produced a concise and accurate paper. While before I would have described the scenery for five pages, this time I described feelings, emotions, and thoughts. I tried to make the readers feel as if they were inside my head. "My fingertips tingled with the anticipated feeling of them gliding across my skin, the velvet so soft and yet so fuzzy at the same time, the scarlet color both intimidating and comforting" (Validating). I kept some descriptive words, but also put enough story content to keep the readers engaged in what was happening. My paper was longer than it needed to be perhaps, but there is

always room for additional improvement. I plan on taking at least one creative writing class in my future, and intend to keep working on my narrative skills.

P?- quote integration

ofgihos

*P3-Abilities to write/revise; I revise my paper better both by myself and with others, I have a better ability to write deeply. Most of my previous papers were just mimicking the teacher's opinion.*

My ability to revise my own work has been improved upon as well. The beginning of the semester I would read through my paper maybe once to fix grammatical mistakes and not check for bigger, more thematic problems. However, for my most recent work I took out entire paragraphs and started over. I added notes in for later consideration. I even started writing smaller passages above where I was typing that told me what to include in the indicated paragraph. I started utilizing this throughout the process of writing the second essay, and then continued to do so for the third. This both helped keep me on track and spurred additional material to work with. As my ability to revise on my own grew, so too did my ability to integrate feedback from others. Over the course of the semester, I had peers review my work nine times. Each paper was looked at three times, and I was told of the ways it could be better.

*P4-Research abilities; had never researched before so drastic improvement there, also improved my secondary research abilities.*

Seeing as how I had never participated in primary research before, I would not say my abilities have advanced, so much as surfaced. For the third assignment students were required to analyze a community with special characteristics, and interview/survey several members. I did

this by piecing together a set of questions for the interview. One of the questions was “How long did it take for you to feel like a member of the workplace community?” (Test of the Teeth). I interviewed one person, recorded it, and then transcribed it into the appendix of my essay. I would probably not have had a chance to develop these abilities and techniques if the paper’s topic had been different.

*Conclusion- sum it up yo*

I will never be done improving, but