
PEER REVIEW MEMO

TO: CECELIA MUSSELMAN
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SUBJECT: PROJECT 1PEER REVIEW
DATE: JANUARY 25, 2016
CC: DERIK PAQUETTE

Summary: The paper explains the author's sudden epiphany when they finally connect the lesson taught in the classroom to the real world. Scientists like Democritus and Niels Bohr described the model for the atomic theory, and the author visualized it inside the gentle ripples of a small puddle.

Major Points: The paper excels in being a piece about a (relatively) powerful moment in the author's life, but the paper also feels a bit anemic when it comes to content. The paper feels like it's building up to some big reveal, but never quite gets there. It's also generally split into two halves the don't relate thematically. The first half discusses how the author moved through his school career (side note: this part on its own is solid, since it relates the audience and moves logically), but the second half suddenly jumps to science from a few centuries ago and follows that bit of logic (second side note: this part also works well on its own).

I think the paper would greatly benefit from either a transition between the two themes, or if the author could find a way to blend the two topics together. The fundamental problem with having the subject of the paper be about puddles is that it can only connect emotionally, not logically. The audience will likely relate to the author's feelings throughout the first few paragraphs, but suddenly the paper shifts tones, topics, and themes to become a new and completely different paper. One solution might be to hold the epiphany until the end, or the scientific elements could be weaved into the earlier parts of the paper.

Overall, the beginning with the emotion and relatability is strong, however the final section that includes the scientific discoveries lacks the connection to the audience.

Minor Points: The formatting appears mostly perfect. The figures do a lot to illustrate the author's points. The spelling is fine, but I think the grammar in a few places could be adjusted to help the flow of specific sentences; a proofread should fix any issues.