# Written Assignment Reflection

#### Tarik Onalan

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### 1 Issues

- 1. Awkward expression, syntax, and inclusion of text:
  I read my essay out loud to make sure that there were no glaring syntax errors.
- 2. A critical lack of (useful) text: I made sure that the text I used in my essay was not just plot, and was relevant, analyzable material.
- 3. Topic sentences tend towards plot:

  This is a product of the following point. However, I still made sure that
  my topic sentences were more than just statements of plot by using the
  same test I used for a thesis. ("If I had a small essay, would this provide
  direction for my argument?")
- 4. Thesis did not provide clear direction to essay and was awkwardly expressed:

  Before writing my essay, I made sure that at a fundamental level, my thesis made sense. I did this by diagramming the logic behind the claim, and making sure that it was coherent. To make sure that it provided clear direction for my essay, I paid attention to my introduction, making sure that I defined the setting/topic that I would be working in.
- 5. The essay did not communicate the thesis:

  This was a multi-part problem: lack of direction (listed), lack of text (listed), awkward syntax (not listed), flawed ideas (partially listed), etc.

  To fix this, I tried to make sure that after a person who had not read the book read my essay, they would understand what my argument was, and how I proved it.

# 2 Comparison

Original Thesis	Revised Thesis
Lermonotov expresses how percep-	Lermontov, through the flawed judg-
tions do not reflect the truth because	ment of Pechorin by foil characters,
they are manipulated by our personal	emphasizes that everybody perceives
beliefs and experiences.	differently.

# 3 Selection

Simply put, Pechorin does not always do the most laudable things, like when he kidnapped Bela. Maksimych, instead of focusing on the fact that Pechorin kidnapped a young girl from her village, focuses on how "Pechorin would make [Bela] some present every day" (Lermontov 35). In the face of an offense like a kidnapping, a "reconciliatory present" hardly seems adequate: especially so after it becomes apparent that Pechorin merely seduced her to ease his boredom, hoping "[t]he love of a wild girl [was better] than that of a lady of rank" (Lermontov 48). Here, Lermontov illustrates the gap between Maksimych's perception of Pechorin and reality; where Maksimych sees Pechorin giving presents, Pechorin thinks of using Bela to ease his boredom.