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Dear Ms. Rice,

I am writing this letter to reflect on the writing assignments that I believe was the highlight during my five-months here. It will also allow you to view the world through my lens, as well as my thought process during the assignments. With this website, I present to you four of my best pieces: Major Paper 2 (MP2), Personal Statement (SA 1.1), Contact Zone Presentation (SA 2.2), and Genre Analysis (SA 1.3). These four triumph my other writing assignments because they contained: depth, passion, and pleasure. As for my other writing, I am not stating that I placed minimal effort in order to achieve completion, but quite exactly the opposite. I placed most of my effort with aspirations of making it in depth and comprehensible. However, they were too forced and resulted in a different writing tone or a choppy structure. The process of selecting my best papers was not an easy one, but I believe I made the right choice.

In this University Of Washington high school class, I learned the four outcomes from Writer, Thinker, Maker: Approaches to Comparison and utilized the outcome in my four pieces. The class has reinforced writing aspects and writing freedom necessary to incorporate the various outcomes.

Major Paper 2

This major paper was incredibly free by allowing the writer to choose a topic of their desire. With all this freedom, I settled down with a topic that I was extremely passionate about doing, writing, and defending: Computer Science. With time, I was able to focus in on a question that seemed fairly vague but allowed room for it to be built upon. By doing this, incorporating the various writing outcomes was not difficult. I was able to incorporate Outcome 2 – utilizing relevant evidence/information to reinforce the claim.

An example of my major paper portraying Outcome 2 was when I listed various projects and inventions in numerous fields. Specifically, I stated an example when I was addressing how Computer Science revolutionized the medical field, “By utilizing programming, advancement in robots has made its way into the surgery room, such as Duke Universities’ T.R.I.N.A (Tele-Robotic Intelligent Nursing Assistant)”. When researching, I was selective in the process, by

looking for the practicality, efficiency, and effectiveness the project had on the world. I also searched for common application programming had on the medical field since it displayed interesting knowledge that one is unaware of.

Personal Statement

Writing my personal statement has been one rollercoaster of a ride. I initially despised writing this because I did not know where to start. My journey with this paper demonstrated Outcome 4 (“To practice composing as a recursive, collaborative process, and to develop flexible strategies for revising throughout the composition process”). Specifically, it means to endure criticism and use it to improve your writing. With those comments, I was able to revise my drafts, as well as go through various versions of them.

By comparing the original personal statement to my final, I had revised the entire style, tone, and story. Many comments towards the original paper were that they couldn’t see the significance in the story. Frequent questions like “What’s the importance of ...” made me reflect whether or not that event defined me. Writing the final draft, I decided to make my theme about ‘Hide & Seek’ because I could explicitly recall loving the game throughout my childhood. However, with this version, I made sure to be specific about the importance by stating, “The time it took to finish the game excited me. As the hunt drew to a close, I felt as if I were a general, leading my troops towards a decisive victory.” In the last version, I was able to specify that the power attracted me to love the game, and later on, connected that to the present day. With my peers, I was able to refine my writing and convey my emotions more effectively. I had realized that I was subconsciously assuming that the reader knew. Simply having my peers check my work, grammatical errors, as well as confusing sentences, were able to be resolved.

Contact Zone Presentation

For this presentation, the goal was to convey our message that related ‘The Matrix’ to Louise Pratt’s contact zone. Although the presentation was not exactly a writing piece, the agenda still remained consistent – sharing that message to an audience. The way we present the information changes the difficulty of digesting it. The words that I use changes whether or not I am targeting an audience full of adults or toddlers.

Our group chose ‘The Matrix’ because it was a classic that many of us haven’t seen and had a unique connection to the contact zone, such as the two cultures of human and robots colliding. Since the movie was R rated, our presentation also had to be aimed at a mature audience. During our preparation, our wording on each slide had to be professionally coherent. However, there were attempts at breaking the ice by incorporating images that were more relaxed, like the man nodding and the ‘Thank you’ slide.

The slides that were used demonstrated Outcome 1 – strategically targeting an audience – by having our sentences address serious topics, “Throughout the film, the words “liberate” and “free” is used often. This is a reference to the topic of slavery as the humans are “slaves” of their own mind. The writers introduce this idea to portray our world, where we are slaves to the corporations, government, and systems that exploit us”. The example statement addresses a

serious issue that is directed towards a professional and mature audience. Our group stayed true to the movie by keeping it mature. However, since we are all high schoolers, we attempted at making it more relaxed and less tense by adding in the pictures.

Genre Analysis

Writing this piece interested me in many ways. There were different methods in persuading and building a driving argument. Through the Los Angeles Times and Landmark Political Cartoon, I was able to explicitly see two methods they used. In my Genre Analysis piece, I was able to demonstrate Outcome 3 – an outcome aimed at strategically and critically persuading the audience – by analyzing the two methods.

Both of the writings incorporated pathos and logos, however, each style dominated in the other in some sort of aspect. I had described the news article as direct and ineffective due to the criticism. I was able to incorporate the knowledge of a book I've previously read, "How to Win Friends & Influence People" by Dale Carnegie, into my final draft. It's where I learned how criticism only makes people more defensive in their stance if one isn't completely open minded.

Going back, I had to revise the essay because my analysis did not completely flow well with the evidence used. I had previously misinterpreted the information which weakened my essay. With my final draft, I have revised the analysis in a way that it flowed easier, as well as go in depth. I had to consistently be aware of the methods used in building one's audience because I had to analyze the pros and cons of each strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Li", with a stylized, cursive script.

John Li