Revise a Music History Paper

Listen to part of a conversation between a student and his music history professor.

S - So, I - I was wondering what I can do to improve my paper before the final draft~~’s~~ is due.

P - Well, Micheal, I - I had no problem with your writing style; it’s graceful and clear… um, and it’s interesting that you’re writing about your grandmother’s piano concert.

S - Yeah, when you said we had to attend the concert and ~~wrote~~ write about it, I immediately thought of her. I’ve ~~have~~ been to lots of her concerts, so I am really familiar with her music.

P - That’s not necessarily ~~in~~ an advantage. ~~Familiarity~~ familiarity sometimes makes it hard to see things objectively.

S - So I shouldn’t write about my grandmother?

P - No, No - No, I am just talking in general. But, as I mentioned in my comments, I’d ~~liked~~ like you to place your grandmother’s concert in-in-in a boarder context.

S - Yeah, ~~yea~~ I - I saw that, but I was not sure what you meant. I mean, I mentioned my grandmother’s childhood, how much her parents loved music, how she played ~~paino~~ piano at all ~~while~~ our family gatherings...

P - Ok, I see what happened now. By “broder context”, I mean how the concert relates to some period in music history.

S - I see. OK, um, I have an idea…

P - Ok.

S - Well, ~~As~~ as you ~~red~~ read in my paper, my grandmother performs classical music.

P - ~~Yeah.~~ Yes.

S - That’s her true love. But for most of her career, she performed jazz; She originally studied to be a ~~classic~~ classical panist, but jazz was ~~indebted then~~ in its heyday back then, and when she got out of the conservatory, she was invited to join a jazz ~~orcheastra~~ orchestra, and the opportunity was just too good to turn down...

P - Really? Well that’s fasinating, because you probably have to reinvent her whole musical style.

S - She did. But jazz was where the money was at ~~as the money for~~ that time~~,~~. ~~at~~ At least for her.

P - But she ~~then~~ eventually ~~returned~~ went back to classical.

S - Right - but only recently.

P - Ok…

S - So if I can show how her choices relate to what was happening in the world of music at the time…

P - I think that might work very nicely.

S - And if I do that, I guess so I have to like, interview her…

P - Right.

S - And I guess that’d ~~it~~ mean.

P - … You will have to rewrite most of your paper.

S - ~~Oach.~~ Ouch.

P - Yeah... Would~~n’t~~ an extra week ~~is the~~ ease the pain?

S - Definitely.

P - OK. So, are there other musicians in your family?

S - Yeah, my mother plays piano too~~,~~ ~~not~~ Not as well as my grandmother, but...

P - And - and you?

S - Oh - I don’t play any instruments, but I sing in the university choir~~,~~. ~~in~~ In fact, we’re ~~are~~ performing next week, and I have a solo...

P - That’s great. Could I tell the class about your concert?

S - Um~~m~~, sure. But about my paper - uh, what questions should I be asking my grandmother?

P - You know what~~,~~ ? I have a meeting now, why don’t you come to class a few minutes early tomorrow?

S - Will do.