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Gatsby: Essay Reflection Questions

1. What did you learn from writing the essay? (about *The Great Gatsby*)

During the process of writing this essay on *The Great Gatsby*, I've come to appreciate the ineffable depth of F. Scott Fitzgerald's writing. In his novel, the construction of each sentence, the selection of each word--it all has meaning and, often, hidden significance just waiting to be discovered.

2. What are you most proud of?

I am very proud of the passages that I selected and included in this essay. It took me upwards of two hours to go through the book again and find an interesting, inconspicuous selection of evidence (e.g. I probably flipped through and skimmed the entire novel at least twice before settling with the passages you see included in this final draft). I really love how some of these passages are those that I would typically just skim over (e.g. one merely describes the settings in which important character dialogue takes place; I'll usually just focus on the dialogue and the descriptions go unnoticed). But, in the context of writing this essay, I was able to more fully interpret and appreciate Fitzgerald's meaning.

3. What are you least sure of?

During the construction of this essay, I struggled maintaining my focus and only including commentary relevant to my thesis and corresponding topic sentences. There was just so much going on in the passages I selected that it became difficult to only include analysis supporting my

thesis! While I hope that my commentary remains focused and rooted in textual evidence throughout this essay, I do admit that there are some areas where focus and content could be improved.