

Brianna Denton

Mrs. Kelli Wood

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### Essay of Revision: What I Would Do Differently

A life lesson I have learned recently is that looking back on the past can help us focus on what needs to be done in the future. This can apply to any scenario in life, and today, I have especially applied it to my writing on my MLA format assignment, “My Favorite Places in El Paso.” After looking back on this past assignment, I can look at myself in the mirror and yell, “Amateur!” Throughout this essay, some things needed changing or extending, like my formatting and descriptions. There were also strengths I noticed as well, such as the ability to be descriptive about background details without overwording them.

In my MLA format assignment, I believe I was decently able to explain what makes late nights at Sonic so magical; however, I could have gone into more depth about how these wonderous nights make me feel inside, so I could really try and project that feeling of euphoria out to the reader. I was pleased with how I explained the events that go down: ‘Driving down the road, blasting nostalgic songs we can sing along to, windows down, hair blowing in the wind, we pull into a Sonic and talk about life while devouring ice cream and onion rings.’ But as I read over it now, I think the audience would get a true idea of how these nights feel if I separated each event I stated and included my emotions with them. For example,

Driving down the endless road with no sense of direction, singing along to a nostalgic playlist, fond memories flutter through my mind painting a smile on my face. The rhythm takes control of my body as the wind lightly combs through my hair; I feel free. I see the

neon Sonic sign light up the night sky as we pull up to the drive-in and park. There is nothing more serene than a soul-searching late-night talk with a side of onion rings and ice cream.

I like this description better because it portrays the buildup to the moment that I get to Sonic, my favorite place. It allows the readers to feel as if they are living in the moment with me. In this assignment, description was not my strong suit, but as a Certified Writing Ninja today, I consider it one of my strengths.

A strength that I can actually identify in my essay is my ability to be straightforward but not bland when describing my experiences. For example, I feel I did well trying to display my pride in being an El Paso, Texas, resident. I begin the essay with, “Surrounded by mountains, poppy fields in the spring, and a star lighting up on the mountain at night... this is home.” Since describing El Paso was not the main goal for the assignment, I do not believe I have to go into any more description than I already have. Giving brief descriptions like this broadens the imagination without becoming overwhelming. I am able to sprinkle little references around my essay that always lead back to my city, and I feel that they give a good visual of the ambiance that the Sun City brings without being extremely wordy. It is like adding salt and pepper to an entrée; the salt is not the main ingredient, but if people add just the right amount, their food can come out tasty.

Something that I need to put much more work into is the formatting of my essay in general. All I seem to have done is an introduction and one very long body. I would have liked to separate the body of my essay into at least two paragraphs: One paragraph talking about why Sonic is one of my favorite places and one paragraph about how Downtown El Paso is another one of my favorite places. Then it seems that my conclusion is almost non-existent, nothing but

two simple sentences put together. If I were to write the conclusion again now, I would keep the few sentences I have but extend them much more to at least restate my thesis. This is how I would rewrite my conclusion:

It is always nice to have a comfort place—Somewhere I can feel safe and content—these wondrous places are embedded into the Sun City’s core, and El Paso would not be the same without them. Even if it is a simple fast-food chain like Sonic, or the historic Downtown attractions, when it all comes together, it is home. Simple places are filled with fond memories, which is what makes them my favorite. It is little things like these that make me show my El Paso pride!

By adding a couple of extra sentences to my conclusion, I briefly grazed over the prompt of what my favorite places in El Paso are and what makes them my favorite. This new conclusion summarizes my essay and then uses the sentence, “Simple places are filled with fold memories, which is what makes them my favorite,” to tie it all together to one bigger perspective.

When it comes down to revising and editing, I always dread it. I want my work to be the best content possible, yet I dread reading over it myself to make any changes. After all is said and done, when I can read over my work and be happy with what I have created, I realize just how important revising and editing is. That one coma, sentence, or word with a different connotation can change the whole tone of my work. Looking back at this piece has made me realize how much my writing has improved throughout this semester and helped me pinpoint things that I still need to improve. Whether I came across more strengths or weaknesses, they all water the seed of my mind helping me grow into a well-developed writer.