

Example paper
ENG 102
Self-Reflection Project 2

I was way more comfortable with the prompt for project two than I was with the prompt for project one. The prompt for project two was clearer and gave me a better understanding of what it is I was assigned to write about. I am also more familiar with writing an argument than I am with analyzing one. When I began brainstorming a topic for this project I knew I wanted to choose a topic that interested me, affected me and a topic that I could argue in support of. I chose the topic of school uniforms because I have siblings and other family members who are required to wear uniforms and I also know that this is an ongoing issue. Another reason I choose this topic is because I knew I would have people to interview that would have knowledge in this field and provide interesting comments.

This project better demonstrated some of my strengths as a writer than the previous project. In my last essay I had many organizational issues that took away from my paper. In this paper I stayed away from those problems and had an overall well organized essay. You support this by your comment, "Your essay was very clear and generally well organized." My essay had a very clear focus and stayed on the track for almost the entire essay with the exception of a paragraph. My interest in this topic allowed me to better stay on focus and to find more interesting views and facts into my essay. The structure of my essay allowed my audience to be able to follow the flow of my paper and not be confused as they move from paragraph to paragraph.

Along with the flow of my paper, my transitions are also a strength demonstrated in my paper. The more I write and read others writing I understand how important transitions are in allowing the audience to follow the writers train of thought and flow through the essay. A transition from my paper is, "In addition to lowering competition, uniforms also bring about fewer behavior and discipline issues." This transition reminds my audience that I just told them about uniforms lowering competition and informs them that from there I am going to also talk about how uniforms bring about fewer behavior and discipline issues.

Along with my strengths in this essay there are some weaknesses that I demonstrated. Some of my sentences need to be rephrased so that they flow better and make more sense. Another strength that I had in my paper was going deeper into some of my statements. A good example of this is the sentence, "Especially in society today, competition is beaten into people's minds on a daily basis." Your comment to this was to give some examples. Adding examples to this will allow it to seem more real in the minds of my audience and also give this statement more credibility.

Your comments on this paper were extremely helpful. I did not fully understand one comment but I asked Tom prior to writing this so I would be able to incorporate the revision in my reflection. Your comments are revisions that I did not even think about as I wrote this paper but I believe they will make my essay even better.

As I move on to revising my essay I have many things to accomplish. I will start with my introduction. Your comment for it was, "An anecdote in a school context would better fit your Example 2 essay and your thesis." I will take this paragraph out and change it to, "Dress code Referral! This is a phrase that resonates through the minds of many students at a local public high school. Walking through the halls has become a ducking game for many students who try and hide from teachers. Walking through the halls there were more and more teachers on patrol looking for violators instead of accomplishing tasks they needed to get done. As the weeks go on more and more clothing is being banned. Students are constantly receiving dress code referrals for their clothes, which cause many disturbances in the hallways along with the class rooms."

For my first body paragraph I have, "Distractions are all around every day. Within the class room children are surrounded by many pictures and posters that display the learning from that class room and some are simple encouragers." To make this comment better fit into my essay I will change it to, "Distractions are all around every day and the distractions do not

stop because a child is at school. Many of the clothing children wear are distractions. Many clothing has graphics, emblems and words. All of these are distractions that cause children to focus on the words or images on some ones shirt instead of the topic at hand in the class room." To better explain the comment "She says that the uniforms allow the children as a whole to be more focused on their daily tasks," I will add "She went on to explain that the kids are not being distracted by how another child dresses or by what is on their clothing."

After the sentence, "Especially in society today, competition is beaten into people's minds on a daily basis," I will add some examples of this which will say, "Society accomplishes this through commercials, adds, billboards magazines and movies." I will take, "Even at young ages children are worrying about what they look like, from their hair to their clothes and all the way down to their shoes," and instead start off by saying "even as young as young as age five children...." I will take out the word "skyrocket" in " It came to the point where the choices students could wear to school began to decrease as the choices that were harmed began to skyrocket." And change it to "...banned came to a dramatic increase. Tank tops were no longer allowed, jeans with holes were banned along with certain shoes that resembled "house shoes" but were technically not."

Another change that I will make is by moving my paragraph talking about getting ready in the morning to the second to last paragraph. In moving this paragraph I will also rephrase the first sentence in this paragraph to say, "Uniforms not only have an effect on the child at school but also have an effect on him or her at home and also the parents." I think that moving this and changing the first sentence also connects and gives credibility that the uniforms do not just affect the child but affect the parents. The examples and my source in this paragraph are also better incorporated and make more sense in relation to the other parts of my paper.

One surface-level thing that I would change would be to have someone introduce my topic before I begin to read the essay. I would also figure out how to better edit my recording to take out some of me when I stumbled over some of the words. I may also try and incorporate some music into the recording.