ANALYTIC ESSAY 1

Writing Workshop
Fall 2020

THE "HOW" AND "WHAT" OF WRITING WORKSHOPS

- Plan to spend 60 minutes in total on revisions, but break up that time as you see fit
- I'll ask you to identify one paragraph to focus on, but that may not work for your draft. Use alternate paragraphs as best suits your revisions.

- What: Our Writing Workshop will work towards creating "shared horizons" in your writing. After a brief overview, we'll move through three specific revisions you can make to strengthen your paragraph, using sample student writing to motivate revision.
  - Revision goal 1: interpretive close reading
  - Revision goal 2: paragraph structures and making logical connections [bulk of workshop]
  - Revision goal 3: strengthening thesis statements [brief]

THE “HOW” AND “WHAT” OF WRITING WORKSHOPS

- Revision goal 1: interpretative close reading
- Revision goal 2: paragraph structures and making logical connections [bulk of workshop]
- Revision goal 3: strengthening thesis statements [brief]

“The truths we learn from [a text] cannot be confined to the pages of that essay. As soon as we read something [else…] all sorts of new connections will begin to compete for our attention. [...] Once they have entered into our lives, we need to bring them together in a way that creates a shared horizon, a great, more inclusive coherence.”

-*The New Humanities Reader*, xxix

REVISION GOAL 1: INTERPRETIVE CLOSE READING

Example of student's writing:

"Tolentino uses the phrase 'always optimizing' to explain that women will never be able to reach the beauty ideal and will never truly be satisfied. This means that the main goal of advertising this unreachable beauty ideal is, to enslave women is this objectifying and never satisfying cycle of beauty. Moreover, this cycle of beauty fulfills patriarchies main belief."

My comment: What key word in the phrase you've identified signifies this "never satisfying cycle"?

REVISION GOAL 1: INTERPRETIVE CLOSE READING

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My comment: What key word in the phrase you've identified signifies this "never satisfying cycle"?

Your goal: identify one key concept in your paragraph where you can draw clearer connections between the textual evidence and your analytic claim.

REVISION GOAL 2: PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE AND MAKING LOGICAL CONNECTIONS

Sample scaffold (modeled off the Uneven-U):

- This **first sentence** is your **topic sentence**. which (1) introduces your conceptual claim, and (2) is related to your thesis.
- Now. in the next sentence. provide **context**. and then introduce your "first moment of **textual evidence**."
- Perform your analysis (1-2 sentences). State a **logical connection** that transitions into your second text.
- Provide **context** and introduce your "second moment of textual **evidence**." Perform the analysis (1-2 sentences).
- **Conclude** by restating how your evidence has proven your claim. and draw **connections** to your thesis and possibly to the subsequent essay paragraph.

Uniform is the major component of how optimization is expressed. It is a concept of having a common dress of a group of people while implying their unchanging character. Tolentino holds that “[a]n entire industry has even sprung up to give optimization a uniform: athleisure, the type of clothing you wear when you are either acting on or signaling your desire to have an optimized life” (82). Tolentino points out that a phenomenon that people wear sports clothes to signal themselves to always be optimized. What athleisure implies is an attitude of willingness to make improvements, which is something that should be proud of. In this quote, Tolentino uses the word “sprung up” ... to unveil .... Likewise the Citadel believes that uniform in both behavior and appearance benefit the achievement in “Whole Men”. ...as Faludi stated that “[h]e rejoined his classmates with that distinctive knob march, "the march of the puppets," as a professor described it to me later. It was a gait caused in some cases, I was told, by the most conscientious cadets' efforts to keep their shirts perfectly straight with the help of garters-one end of the garter clipped to the shirttail, the other end to the socks.” (71). The "the march of the puppets" described the training process of being a “Whole Men”. By using the word “puppets”, ... By drawing an analogy between the cadets and puppets, it best describes how these cadets are not only in dress code but also act impassive and stiff just like the puppets. It also demonstrates how uniform is crucial

Topic sentence introduces a conceptual claim

Context and textual evidence

Analysis

Logical connection to transition into next text

Context and textual evidence

Analysis

Conclusion returns to the conceptual level, and draws connection to thesis.

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REVISION GOAL 2: PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE AND MAKING LOGICAL CONNECTIONS

Now it's your turn to identify the same elements in a paragraph of your choice. Look at the structure again:

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- **Conclude** by restating how your evidence has proven your claim. and draw **connections** to your thesis and possibly to the subsequent essay paragraph.

REVISION GOAL 2: PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE AND MAKING LOGICAL CONNECTIONS

Now it's vour turn to identify the same elements in a paragraph of your choice. Ask yourself:

What is the overarching claim of this paragraph? Is it expressed in a topic sentence? If not please write a topic sentence that adequately represents the content to the paragraph. Does the topic sentence refer to the thesis?

Do you have evidence from *both authors?* If not please find evidence from the other, missing, essay that you can connect to the textual evidence you already found.

Is the evidence contextualized? Is it followed by an analysis that incorporates instances of *close reading?*

Have you established a connection between the two examples of textual evidence from the two authors?

Is there a proper conclusion summarizing the evidence and possibly introducing the next paragraph?

REVISION GOAL 3: STRENGTHENING THESIS STATEMENTS

"The pursuit of an 'ideal,' that remains 'generic', as described by Tolentino, illuminates Wall Street efforts to recruit Princeton graduates because these students are put through a training process in which, at the same time, they are welcomed as an embodiment of the ideal of 'smartness' while being praised for their acquiescence to social conventions."

- Relationship to the prompt?
- Clear key terms?
- Logical connections evident between concepts?

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