

Writing and developing essays is something I have done throughout my education and it will continue for years. I have seen superfluous changes within my writing experiences. I have noticed that through the course of last year my writing was like a roller coaster. I have learned several concepts of my writing some good and some bad. During the semester last year my writing improved in areas but also struggled in others.

My writing has improved in areas I used to struggle with over the years. I have seen a drastic improvement with the use of quotes and concrete details. My use of the quotes are embedded and shortened to blend with the remaining context. Earlier in the semester the use of my quotes were poor. An example of my poor use of quotes is displayed in the Scarlet Letter essay. One of the concrete details I used consisted of the following: "The narrator states, "a penalty in our days...mocking ridicule." My use of the quote identified the quote as a concrete detail without an introduction or conclusion stating the reason for the quote. Later through out the semester my quotes blended more with the rest of the essay. I have also seen improvements in my writing with my use of diction. Even though I tend to not do as well as I should on the SAT vocabulary, the terms have amplified my use of diction within my commentary. The diction has helped my commentary through out the semester. In the course of last semester I have seen a change in my writing that strengthened areas of it.

I have learned that my writing displays the improvements and struggles I face with my essays. I notice that my writing appears to be stronger on the free writes and open opinion

prompts such as, "Choose a controversial issue." Even though the essay does not have a grade I believe my commentary, concrete details, and use of diction and literary elements display the strengths in the essay. I have also become aware that I tend to not do well with analytical prompts, and most of the A.P. essays are mainly analytical. I have learned that my problems with the analytical essays are that I do not fully understand the prompt when I start writing. I believe that the struggles with understanding the prompt cause my commentary to struggle as well. I have noticed that in my essays such as, "Marriage Proposals," I missed the second part of the prompt, which then caused my essay to have a low score. I have learned that I have struggles in my writing, and I have also learned that those struggles can be corrected.

There have been times when I did not understand why I received a low score on my essays, but looking over the essays from last semester I understand I have several weaknesses in my writing. The overall difficulty I see in my writing is my commentary. I tend to summarize the quote rather than describe the reason or purpose of the quote. In most of my essays I did not blend my commentary with my concrete details. With that in mind, most of my essays would then contain commentary that did not make any sense. The difficulty of not taking the time to understand the prompt could have caused the reason for a great amount of my superficial commentary. In the "Virginia Woolf" essay, I did not understand the prompt and wrote about the completely opposite answer, which caused my paper to receive a two. After the prompt was then explained to me and I fully understood what the author was implying, my rewrite received a five. The understanding of the "Virginia Woolf" prompt drastically changed the outcome of the essay. The difficulties I have had with my commentary in my essays have caused me to have low scores. In the "King Charles" essay, my commentary did not match the concrete details I provided. In the "Postman" essay I had good concrete details, but my commentary did not match and did not answer the prompt. The use of thorough and in depth commentary would improve my writing and help minimize the difficulties I have in essays.

There are several areas of my writing I can work on to further improve my essays. The main area I can improve on is my understanding of the prompts and the passages for the essays. Also an improvement of my commentary will help further improve my writing. I need to include stronger clearer commentary to introduce and conclude the concrete details. In order to improve my commentary it is important for me to continue to look over and master the S.A.T vocabulary words. The vocabulary words would then strengthen my use of diction, which would create a better essay. I need to also focus on introducing quotes, which would give the quotes meaning and purpose in my writing. My writing would also improve greatly with the use of more literary elements such as, metaphors, allusions, tone, details, and parallel structure. This semester my goal is to correct the difficulties I struggle with and see an improvement in my writing.

Through out the semester last year, I struggled with my writing. This year I hope to eliminate the struggles I deal with and become a better and more skilled writer. The essays over the course of last year have displayed what I need to improve and what the areas are that I have improved in. I have seen some improvement in areas, but not in any overall essay. I have learned about the efforts and struggles of my writing, and I have also noticed the difficulties I will improve on this semester.