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Reflection

The essay I chose to rewrite and revise was an argumentative/research paper on racial profiling in which I had to create a claim based whether I agree or disagree with racial profiling. This essay had been from my freshman year and as I read it, I realized there was much that my present day self would do differently with my current writing abilities. I first changed my introduction paragraph (specifically the first sentence) to be more enticing by reflecting imagery. I then changed the last sentence of my introduction because here, I set up how I will construct my essay into three body paragraphs/points. The points I originally had were written in a way that when spoken aloud, sounded a bit odd and awkward grammatically. After my intro, my original essay had an irrelevant short paragraph that fit nowhere in my list of points for my three body paragraphs. I had already described what racial profiling is in my introduction paragraph, and in my original essay, the following paragraph only reworded the definition to racial profiling. In my revision, I completely took out that unnecessary paragraph because I felt it confused the development of the essay. For my first body paragraph in my original essay, I didn't integrate the first quote well. However, I realized it wasn't just my first body paragraph that I had failed at integrating quotes, it was throughout my whole essay. The problem with this was that my sentences and the quotes didn't flow well. For my revision, I changed my sentences and added a comma before the integrated quotes and switched some words around to make it

sound smooth. As seen throughout my original essay as well, I hadn't added a couple sentences of commentary (expressing my original claim that racial profiling is unjust). The original essay is formatted as such: Sentence. Quote. Sentence. Quote. And so forth. There isn't two sets of commentary, one literal and one expressing my point of view. This made it look very choppy. As I revised it, I brought back the main focus of my opinion and added not only what the literal meaning of the quotes were, but also an in depth sentence about how it exemplifies my claim. My fifth paragraph in my original essay (I had a total of seven paragraphs in my original essay and eliminated two for my revision), stood unnecessary as well. In this body, I gave the counter argument of why some people feel racial profiling is a great method in the legal system. However, that was my only counter argument paragraph so it looked awkward having it be right in the middle. Also, I felt it took the focus of the paper away by not continuing on my pattern of my own claim. Onward with my revision, I tweaked a little of my fourth paragraph and took out some sentences that sounded repetitive or irrelevant, and added in some depth about Abraham Lincoln's wise words "All men are created equal". In the end, for my fifth paragraph (the conclusion), I kept it the same and didn't add or eliminate anything to it. On my old rubric, I had received a "4" in the conclusion column, and I personally felt I stayed on track/focus and ended my essay to my satisfaction.

