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During the Spring Semester English course, I have been able to advance my writing on an educational and personal level. With help from my professor and peers' advice I have learned to listen and accept criticism of my writing and improve my drafts to complete final papers. For example, during the writing of our critical analysis essay, peer reviews really helped me to understand what parts of my writing needed further explanation or less description and allowed me to converse with others on the ideas in my head that were harder to put on paper. It also allowed me to see examples of other students writing and be able to learn from them about strategies I had trouble doing and vice versa, things such as citing evidence or how to introduce sources. One of my biggest takeaways has been learning to skim through evidence to find which pieces supported my argument in a timely manner, learning to annotate the introduction followed by the conclusion and sub-headers, instead of reading 22 pages of articles that end up not being useful. One of the things I still have trouble with might be citing evidence only for the fact that it wasn't practiced often except for when completing the Critical Analysis. When we were assigned to interpret an art piece and create a review, I was extremely lost because I have never done an assignment as such, but annotating articles about the important highlights on what makes a good review gave me more clarity on how to write mine. Through much editing and revising, I have learned to not only improve my writing, but also be able to look at a painting more deeply than just the surface. I had multiple drafts trying to revise how much description I was including or how little background information I was giving, taking into consideration that my personal

opinion shouldn't be the main point in the review, but whether or not the painting is meaningful to the correct audience. Of course peer reviewing allowed me to ask other students if my review grabbed their attention or gave them an understanding of the painting I observed without ever seeing it for themselves. Creating the Visual Essay was also a bit of a struggle for me trying to figure out how to turn my OP into a visual that grasps my argument. Searching for images I wanted to incorporate was fairly easy, figuring out how I wanted to collaborate my images was the most difficult part. Apart from learning to complete my assignments, writing as a whole feels more improved on a personal level as well. I've always had more of a struggle in writing, focusing too much on wanting to improve my vocabulary because I believed that is what truly made a strong essay. This course has helped me realize that there is more to creating a strong essay than vocabulary, such as knowing how to create a strong thesis which can be directly noticed in the beginning, writing paragraphs which smoothly transition from one topic/point to the next, being able to include quotes that I can introduce with the right amount of context and analyze after. Overall, this course has introduced me to many writing strategies and also has helped me improve in aspects of writing that was already known to me.