

Dear Professor,

I am not exactly sure what theory this would constitute as, but I did realize that a theme to my portfolio is revision and the process of writing. My literacy history has been revised three times already and I am sure I will be doing a number four. The four in class writings and journal entries I have selected all have to do with revision. The last thing my portfolio, my commonplace book, is a revision in itself. This theme sort of happened subconsciously because I didn't realize till I was reading my writings and journal entries, that everything we have done has talked about revision at one point. Am I surprised by this? Of course not because I am fully aware that you are the queen of revision!

My literacy history is a great example of revision that I have been working on. The first time I wrote it I just put down all sorts of things that I thought I was trying to say. Then my editing buddy, Julie, helped me weed through what I was trying to get at and then work on making that clearer. From there it became a step by step of my education thus far, which talked about my experiences with reading and writing. Upon receiving my comments from you I realized that I was a little bit out of focus. So I cut out a few things that didn't work with the end result being my idea of literacy. For example, I had a paragraph that talked about me volunteering at my library when I was in junior high. This was a good paragraph, at least I thought so, but it didn't really fit in with my point. My literacy history has now been revised and focuses on why I like to read and write, and the connection I developed in school between the two.

Of the four informal pieces I have enclosed in this portfolio, two are journal entries from *Lives on the Boundary*. In my entry from chapter 4 I talk about Mike going through a process of trial and error when trying to prepare a curriculum for students. He

has to test it on a group before he can see what needs adjusting. This is just like a step in the writing process. I wrote my literacy history and then it was commented on by two people, these are the people I am testing it on and then they let me know what doesn't work and needs to be adjusted. My second journal entry is from chapter 7 and points out how some college kids use big words they don't understand because they think that is how they are supposed to write and how they are unaware of their expectations in college. This is very true. I came to college with those same ideas, pull out the thesaurus and throw in some big words. I thought I was supposed to write sounding all formal and that is what would make me sound smart. That is so wrong. I have learned through the process of writing that there is no need to use big words you don't understand because it makes you look like an idiot. The formal voice thingies something I still struggle on, but I'm working on it. The last two writings I chose to include are pieces that help with that first step in the writing process, getting an idea. The first one, A Discovery of Self, talks about how this summer I began writing down little thoughts and ideas that struck me about my surrounding or things I did. These things can be very useful in the future because they can help me jump start whole ideas for papers. The last piece is my worst school moment that says how my Algebra teacher didn't believe in me, but when I switched to another teacher I got an A. You wrote at the bottom of my paper that this story would make a great essay, and I had never thought about such a thing before. It was something that I just scribbled down in ten minutes, but could be turned into something much greater.

My commonplace book is a different kind of revision. I have taken this authors text and added to it, and questioned it, and made it into something of my own. It is and

idea I had never thought about before, taking someone else's work and adding to it. I really liked this book so I didn't really cover over or cross out any words, at least that I remember, but I do feel free now to continue this process in the future and even cut out and write over what I don't like. I just felt so free with the project and really had fun with it.

In the end I think this portfolio really wraps around the idea of revision and writing being a process with many steps. Every piece of writing in this portfolio illustrates a step in the writing process. It is important to see that writing isn't just a one time deal, it takes time, and effort, and plenty of revising to get something good.