

Reflective Note

The hardest part about writing your own story is often viewing it from the reader's vantage point. I know my story and all of the details that led me to be the writer I am today, but it is completely different for someone who has no prior knowledge, and the feedback from the peer review process was really instrumental in helping me convey my story clearly. There were several points throughout the essay where the primary comments were simply "expand on this" or "give examples". And I definitely took those to heart. Forcing myself to expand the initial ideas from my first draft honestly made me reexamine why I write in the first place. It was also interesting to receive feedback from my peers about how I portray myself on paper. For the sake of humor and humility, I unnecessarily and somewhat unknowingly riddled the essay with self deprecating statements; not only did this paint me in a poor light, but it defeated the reason I write in the first place, so it was very important for me to rectify that, and it ended up giving an entirely new dimension to the essay. I think transitioning was also a big thing I took away from the peer editing process. My peers wanted to see more connections between the different motives for my writing, and that made me think about how they all fit together. By adding stronger transitions, the essay became more of an evolution for me as a writer and seemed to have a greater impact in the end. In the one-on-one meeting, I also voiced concerns about bringing together the two contrasting personas I present in the essay and upon further examination; I came to the conclusion that they were not that different after all. Overall, both the one-on-one and peer review forced me to reexamine the analysis I presented in my essay and view it in a different light.