

**ENGL1101****Student:** Ms. Jessica Lundy**Teacher:** Ms. Sara Amis

Born on December 5, 1989, I have an extreme dislike for the cold, even though I was born during the winter months. Ironic, right? Well, my favorite season is the summer, for many reasons. Basically, I thrive on warm weather and long days. For the most part, the summertime means sun-splashed fun. The hot season means time for my favorite activities, such as tanning, enjoying water sports, and playing tennis. If rain puts a damper on the outdoors, I don't despair. It provides a perfect shopping day at the mall for the best bargains. Accessories such as shoes and purses are my favorites, and time flies as I rotate through the specialty shops, rummaging for precise fits for my taste and budget. My cats also prove to be my best companions on rainy days. Whether I am watching television or reading a good book, my cats never fail to curl up on my lap and provide me company. Also, summertime is travel time with the family, taking in sights and activities at some semi-tropical location in Florida. The beach always provides a haven for relaxing and unwinding, with waves crashing rhythmically and sunsets painting the sky with amber and lavender hues.



## Jessica Lundy's Introductory Reflective Essay

### Reflective Introduction: Overcoming Obstacles

We all face routine obstacles in our everyday lives, but high achievement requires overcoming extraordinary obstacles. To succeed, we find ways to surmount those obstacles to meet our needs and accomplish our aspirations. Overcoming obstacles and achieving through perseverance are hallmarks of a life well lived, and the desire to overcome is the overarching theme of my portfolio.

It is hard to imagine a better example of overcoming than the story of Elizabeth Eckford and her participation in the quest to segregate the Little Rock School System. In my first revised essay, I analyze a photograph of Eckford walking to school with armed guards. The image is illustrative of overcoming an extreme obstacle. Eckford marches as the only black female outnumbered by many white people, as she fights for her right to attend the public school of her choice. She did not let society and ignorance stop her from her dream of a equal education. Her determination allowed her to stand strong, even during the infancy of the Civil Rights Movement, when white supremacy was at its height. As a writer, I struggled in my revision to convey the emotional meaning and significance of this moment captured in time rather than simply describing what the image showed.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose leadership epitomized overcoming and inspired the desire to overcome in others, was the subject of my second revised essay. In this paper, I examine Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, "I Have a Dream" speech. His speech was delivered near the peak of the Civil Rights Movement, when African-Americans still had fundamental rights to gain. Dr. King provided an inspiring speech to encourage African-Americans that equality was in their future, despite the many obstacles they would continue to face. His speech encapsulated the Civil Rights Movement and was a call to action to continue to overcome obstacles. His expression of purpose raised the hopes of millions and proved that years of persistence would lead to a brighter future. Continuing my development as a writer, I tried to include more details, direct quotes and to bring to life the impact his powerful words and imagery had on others.

My exhibit of the revision process is from a section of my first paper, which was about my attachment to a fragrant, old robe. However, as I got older I had to let go of the robe. Personally, it was a hard obstacle to overcome, but I was ready to grow up and be confident in my own abilities and self worth. This paper was chosen for my revision process because it has the most significant changes grammatically, stylistically, and structurally. It demonstrates my writing process from first draft to final draft.

My exhibit of the peer review process is shown through my peer reviews of two of my classmates' papers. I provided helpful information on how to improve style and coherence to enhance the effect of my classmates' papers. Finding the mistakes of others helped make me cognizant of ways to improve my own writing.

Finally, as my wild-card submission, I decided to use an essay I wrote in tenth grade on Dr. King and his influence on the Civil Rights Movement. I discuss important dates and events that

take place during the movement and Dr. King's noteworthy contribution. It provides a summary of how fighting the struggle and never giving up can lead to overcoming obstacles. Comparing this three-year-old effort to my papers as a college freshman shows my maturation as a writer, both stylistically and structurally.

## **Jessica Lundy's Revision Exhibit**

### **Revision Process Exhibition**

Revision is the process of altering something already written or printed in order to improve the quality of one's writing. My revision skills are exhibited the most in the first essay I wrote. I chose to revise the second paragraph because it was a clear demonstration of the variety of errors I made in the first draft of my paper.

#### **First Version:**

The story of how my favorite robe and I became soul mates is an odd one, to say the least. My uncle was out hunting when he saw this random piece of cloth lying on the ground, covered in dirt and leaves. He decided to bring it back home to give it to his sister, my Mom, who tends to like most anything that is free. It turned out to be her size, so she accepted it and took it straight to the washing machine. After the dirt was washed away, it was hung in her closet. I walked by her closet, and this smell caught the attention of my curious seven year old nose. It was one of the most refreshing smells ever. The scent of laundry detergent she used was one of clean linen with a touch of lavender. I followed the smell to the closet until I landed on the exact article of clothing. My nose went right to it, landing on this 100-percent cotton robe. Honestly, there was nothing special about its appearance. It was not bright, nor did it have extravagant designs or jewels. It was just a navy and red plaid robe that had two things going for it: one, it smelled great; and two, it felt luxurious and had the comforting feel of home. It was soft, fluffy, and gentle on my nose when I would inhale the fresh scent of laundry detergent.

In the first version, my goal is to get my thoughts down on paper, not paying that much attention to description or engaging details. I try to be as grammatically correct as I can, so there will be few corrections of spelling, punctuation, or syntax.

### **Second Version:**

The story of how my favorite robe and I became soul mates is an odd one, to say the least.

Hunting in the woods one day, my uncle saw this random piece of cloth lying on the ground, covered in dirt and leaves. He decided to bring it back home to give it to his sister, my mom, who tends to like most anything that is free. It turned out to be her size, so she accepted it and took it straight to the washing machine. After the dirt was washed away, it was hung in her closet. I walked by her closet, and a compelling smell caught the attention of my curious seven-year-old nose. It was one of the most refreshing ever. The scent of the laundry detergent she used was one of clean linen with a touch of lavender.

I followed the smell to the closet until I landed on the exact article of clothing. My nose went right to it, landing on this 100-percent cotton robe. Honestly, there was nothing special about its appearance. It was not bright, nor did it have extravagant designs or jewels. It was just a faded, plaid robe that had two things going for it: one, it smelled great; and two, it felt luxurious and had the comforting feel of home. It was soft, fluffy, and gentle on my nose when I would inhale the fresh scent of laundry detergent.

In the second version, I pay more attention to style. For example, I chose to start the sentence with a gerund because it added varied sentence structure to the paragraph. Simply changing the order of the sentence enhances the style and adds interest to the flow. In the sixth sentence, I added the word compelling. This one adjective improves the meaning of the sentence to illustrate the smell of the robe. Grammatically, I added hyphens to seven-year-old because it is an adjective modifying nose. This is an example of a simple mistake overlooked in the first draft. Also, near the end of the paragraph, I replaced the words “navy” and “red” with the word “faded.” This was because I had already used the words navy and red in the previous paragraph

and did not want to sound redundant. Finally, I made the one huge paragraph into two separate paragraphs. Overall, this helped keep the paper coherent, organized, and easier to read.