4. Exhibit of Composing/Revision Process – Visual

I am a visual learner through and through. While composing and revising my writing, I always use many colors, arrows, stars, and visuals on my work. Some may find it chaotic, but if my page isn’t covered in color, I don’t know where to begin. I find different formatting super helpful to add emphasis and serve as visual reminders on areas to improve. First, I have an example of my revision process from my Memoir essay.

Additions to my first drafts are **underlined and green**. Subtractions are formatted **red with strikethroughs**. Places where I’ve made replacements can be represented by: **Original text**: Replacement text

I realized this part had little significance. I was trying to be thorough but it comes off as unnecessary filler words. This information adds nothing to my plot.

I may have spent the rest of the day in the nurse’s office and visited the counselor before hopping on the bus. The whole ride was spent dreading the talk I’d get at home. “Are you okay?” “What happened?” I had the house all to myself though so like any creature of habit. However, before I began my homework accompanied by a YouTube video. Then it was time for faced that, I trudged through hours of practice and/or rehearsal that’d take me practices and my sister rehearsals, dragging me across my city and back. I’d bounced back from my moment of weakness earlier and I’d survived the rest of the day. Survival, struggle, and strength didn’t congest most of my peer’s daily internal vocabularies though. I was twelve years old with the stress of a middle-aged air traffic controller. Yet, no matter the physical toll, with if there was no visible output I felt like a failure. Comparison Comparing myself to the feats my mother and father parents had accomplished in high school (each with an entire grade or two skipped) made me fearful I couldn’t live up to them. No one asked me to, but why couldn’t I?

Here I felt, my sentence didn’t flow. I often read my work out loud and pretend I’ve never read it. This helps me put myself in my reader’s shoes.

My peer reviewer said he had to re-read this line, so I reworded it for clarity.

Next, I have an example from my profile essay. I started my composition process by making a rough outline based off the interview questions I prepared. I used this and audio recordings from my interview to create the first draft. I rapidly took notes throughout the interview as I tried to keep up with my subject, so they were very scattered. After our interview, I was thrilled by how much material I had to use but sorting through it was a challenge.

← Tons of notes from my interview!
Here I’ve highlighted parallels from my outline to my later drafts, in coordinated colors. I’ve also elaborated on my process here.

**Project 2 Profile Essay Exploratory Outline**

**Introduction**

- Here I will introduce my sister and our relationship.
- I will introduce the topic/angle I’m taking which is about how she wants to change her last name, “Smith,” the most common last name in the world. I will relate this to my heritage.

**1. Growing up with our last name**

My subject, my sister, shares the last name “Smith” with half of my family, including myself. My mother doesn’t share our last name although our parents have been married our whole lives. She opted to keep her maiden name that appeared on all her medical certifications and degrees. In my interview, I will inquire about what my sister’s experience has been like growing up with our last name, and her entire name, which is atypical for a girl. She has gone by different names throughout her life but I’m not sure why, so I will ask about how she chose them and their significance. To tie it into my heritage I may briefly comment on my own experience with the name Smith.

**Body**

**2. The meaning of our last name, Smith**

I will elaborate on what the name “Smith” means to my sister personally. I know Smith is the most common last name in the world. In most settings, there are almost always other Smiths in the room. I don’t know what Smith means historically or anything beyond my experience with it. While interviewing, I’ll find out if my subject knows the context and/or history of the last name Smith.

3. **Her “why?”**

I will ask my sister why she wants to change her last name. Does it go beyond its sometimes-annoying popularity? I will also figure out if it has to do with the name Smith, specifically. Currently, I don’t know her reasoning. My sister tends to like to stand out, so I will inquire if that has anything to do with it. She is a creative and has considered careers in both writing and the performing arts. When I interview her, I will ask if standing out in the professional world is the primary reason for her.

**Conclusion**

4. **Her action plan for legally changing her last name**

I will figure out what my sister’s action plan is for legally changing her last name. Right now, I don’t know any of the details. I assume it is a difficult task to achieve, considering she isn’t getting married, so I will see just how much she knows about it. I will ask if she has her mind set or if she’ll consider keeping it. No one else in our family knows of her plans, so I will ask if she intends to reveal them before she legally goes through with the swap. I’ll see if she has any specific names in mind. I will ask if she plans on changing her name again if she gets married.

**For the most part I stuck to my exploratory outline in my final draft. It was a helpful because all I really had to do was “fill in the blanks” with my interview material.**