

Sean Turner

Kelsey Taylor

English 1101

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WORD - Adjust to expectations of the assignment

WORD - Needs to be rephrased

WORD - Find alternative Word

WORD - Cut

WORD - Added

### The Never Ending Process

Revising has not always been one of my strongest suits. In fact, up until this year, I would say it was the technique I needed the most work on. In past experiences, I would write my essay in one sitting, thinking that was the best way to go about the process. What I did not know was that once it was time to revise, I had no idea where to go. Writing it all at once was my way of swallowing the toad, but it did not give me enough time to think about the process. English 1101 made me slow down by breaking down the process and giving me a chance to go step-by-step, making revisions along the way. In this excerpt from my Second Revised Essay (also titled: A Major Change in Life), my changes from my first draft to my final are pronounced. I selected this portion for my Revision Exhibit because it clearly illustrates my improvement from the first draft to the final.

## First Draft:

Fun fact about me: before attending the University of Georgia, I attended the New England Conservatory of Music as a French horn performance major. Long story short, I ended up dropping out after my first year there, took a gap year, and decided to transfer my talents to the theatre program behind the arch in Athens, Georgia. Why is this relevant, you ask? Because during this gap year I felt less than everyone else my age and like a failure. But, to my surprise, I found out that fine arts majors frequently dropout! With this new knowledge, I started wondering if this was due to majoring in the arts or if a student dropping out just had to do with the student themselves. So the question becomes: do students majoring in an area of fine arts (theatre, music, dance, etc.) have a higher rate of dropping out than students in any other major?

*When I originally turned in this draft, I thought it was a unique introduction that I was proud of. That's when I realised my first major error: although this is supposed to be a formal essay, I approached it very informally. Before I could focus on the grammatical errors, I knew I needed a clean start.*

## Second Draft:

Students in the arts have the most complicated and unique education. It doesn't involve studying textbooks or reviewing slideshows, but rather practicing their craft for hours and hours a day in hopes of a perfect product so they can have a successful career. Although that sounds rewarding, perfection is impossible, so this process can go from very fulfilling to very strenuous within seconds. With this in mind, it doesn't seem farfetched to predict that this takes a real toll on the student's mentality and can affect their future in a very extreme way. It goes without saying that once a student has reached a peak of stress and frustration, this type of negative mindset leads to more mental disorders, such as depression

and anxiety. When describing this to someone, it might be hard for them to understand how this may differ from any other major such as business or insurance. By analyzing the psychology of people in the arts and comparing it to the main causes of dropout, it becomes clear why fine arts majors have a higher dropout rate than students in any other major.

*My second attempt was a lot more up to speed with what the assignment needed to look like. Once I had the tone of the essay right, I could start being more nit-picky. This go-round I primarily focused on fixing sentences that were run-ons and/or sounded sloppy. I also found words that either needed to be changed or completely cut.*

### **Final Draft:**

Students in the arts have a unique education. It's less about studying textbooks and slideshows than it is about practicing their craft for hours a day in hopes of a perfect product. Although that may sound like a rewarding process, it can go from very fulfilling to very strenuous within seconds because of that strive towards impossible perfection. With this in mind, one can predict that this takes a real toll on the student's mentality and can affect their future in a drastic way. It goes without saying that once a student has reached a peak of stress and frustration, this type of mindset leads to severe mental disorders, such as depression and anxiety. When describing this to someone who has never been involved in fine arts, it might be difficult for them to understand how this may differ from any other college major. By analyzing the psychology of people in the arts and comparing it to the main causes of dropout, it will be clear if students majoring in fine arts have a higher dropout rate than students in more traditional majors.

*I was very pleased with my final draft, especially looking back at where it originated from. Although my revisions are limited, I am proud of the progress I've made. In this draft, I added more context and rephrased the sentences that needed to be. In my second draft, I highlighted quite a few sentences with a green highlighter (which indicated to be rephrased) and that's where a lot of my revisions were. One of which was my thesis. In my second draft, my thesis still felt too informal for what I was going for. So I spent a majority of my editing time on looking for a more formal approach to my thesis.*

**Reflection:**

One of my biggest takeaways from English 1101 is the ability to properly revise my work. I learned that there is no such thing as a "final project", just one you have to turn in because of the deadline. The way I know this is because there are always improvements to be made and errors to fix. As a writer, this is equally as reassuring as it is daunting. It is reassuring because I have a better idea as to what to look for when I need to revise again. I am also aware now that my rough draft is exactly what it sounds like: a *rough* draft. Just because I turn in a finished essay, does not mean I am anywhere close to being done with it.