



May 24, 2012

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The following *personalized feedback* on your portfolio will offer you important advice on how to develop further as an academic writer. We look forward to your next submissions and we hope you'll consider attending the fall open house for a brief conference with one of the readers below.

#### What's working well

The papers submitted thus far demonstrate you are capable of using proper vocabulary to convey a formal tone to your writing (Clarity, Language & Diction); however, proper proofreading will help with homophones, which are words that have different meanings and spellings but sound the same (principle vs. principal). You also possess a good understanding of Mechanics and Usage, and the overall construction of your papers reflect the basic "layout" of an academic paper (Organization), which should consist of an introduction (with thesis statement), body, and conclusion.

#### Where to focus your energies

Based on the papers presented, it was difficult to ascertain the extent of your academic research capabilities. We will need a demonstration of your proficiency with the use and citation of academic sources, such as academic search engines (e.g., EBSCO, Gale), etc. in proper citation format (e.g., APA, MLA). The other areas of focus required in order for you to become a more proficient writer are: Critical Thinking, Fluidity, and Details and Elaboration. In the area of Details and Elaboration, you should SHOW the reader why a particular point is important instead of TELLING the reader it's important, using examples to "paint a picture" for the reader. For example, in your "In the Eyes of a Latina" paper, there were a few instances in which a lack of details left the reader with more questions than answers. It wasn't immediately clear how the fact that Lisa's father lacking positive attributes of Machismo led to Lisa marrying at a young age, and the details of this aren't provided until much later, which affects the Fluidity of the paper. Also not apparent was *why* Lisa was so strict with her first son and in what ways was she strict. If the Details had been fleshed out more (Elaboration) on this issue, it would have segued into Critical Thinking, which involves discussing the significance. For instance, Critical Thinking would have answered the questions of why she was so strict. Was it because she was trying to make up for the fact that she was fulfilling the role of mother and father in her son's life? Was she repeating the cycle of her father's heavy-handed parenting style without even realizing it or did her culture play a role in her parenting? A closer examination of your interview notes might have provided the clues that would have answered these questions. Another area that could have benefited from the aforementioned categories was Lisa's employment at Buckley High School. How was Lisa's employment at Buckley a form of discrimination? Wouldn't it be a form of *reverse* discrimination, or more specifically, preferential hiring? Didn't her ethnicity work in her favor in this instance and is that a good or bad thing? Indeed, your choice of subject was well done and the more information you provide, the more fascinating your subject will be.

#### Key points for moving forward

- Develop your Critical Thinking by expanding *your* ideas and making stronger relationships between points and information.
- Show, through Details and Elaboration, why a particular point is important. Give the reader as much information as possible.
- Improve the Fluidity of your writing by keeping "like" ideas within the same paragraph.

Respectfully,

Lisa M. Smith, first name last name

**FIRST NAME, LAST NAME**

This preliminary evaluation of your writing based on the works you submitted to your portfolio will help you understand the status of your writing ability as a USJ student. Note that the score below is not a final score. Your score on the final evaluation can change based on the work you'll submit during your junior year.

A "check" (✓) is Satisfactory. A "minus" (—) is Unsatisfactory. A "plus" (+) is Excellent.

Critical Thinking	—	Fluidity & Clarity	✓
Researching	—	Details & Elaboration	—
Organization	✓	Language & Diction	✓
Mechanics & Usage	✓		

Inc. = Incomplete, 1 = Poor, 2 = Unsatisfactory, 3 = Satisfactory, 4 = Very Good, 5 = Excellent

**Preliminary Score: 2**