

# Metawriting:

## The Alienation Memoir Peer Review #2!

As a result of our desire to derive every possible lesson from each piece of writing, it is time now for you now return to your second Peer Review for the Alienation Memoir with a colder eye and then write about what you find there.

Here's how:

1. Open up Turnitin.com and find your document.
2. Review your draft, paying careful attention to the annotations and end comments provided by your teacher.
3. Then, and only then, create an e-mail note addressed to your instructor.
4. In the Subject line of the e-mail, use this title:

Metawriting: Alienation Memoir Peer Review #2

5. In the body of that e-mail, answer all of the questions related to these three (3) topics, providing complete tenable arguments (claim + evidence from your Peer Review + reasoning) for each answer:

**A. THE SURPRISE ELEMENT:** What is the one element of your PR#2 that most surprised you during your re-reading?

- If the surprise was pleasant, explain WHY and what lesson you have learned.
- If the surprise was unpleasant, explain WHY and what lesson you have learned.

You can find two examples below.

**B. A MOMENT OF MILD EMBARRASSMENT:** What one sentence in your PR#2 that makes you least happy, and WHY? *In addition*, rewrite the sentence in a way that makes you happy now, and explain how it produces that effect. You can find an example below.

**C. A SOURCE OF PRIDE:** What one sentence are you most proud of in your PR#2, and WHY? Find one great sentence, type it into the e-mail, and tell your instructor why you chose that sentence. Be very specific! You can find an example below.

These analyses will be assessed for insightfulness, effort, and completeness. A "Coursework" assessment of 20 marks is available for the best work.

Deadline: These notes are due before you depart class today.

## **EXAMPLES:**

Please note that these examples are derived from narrative essays. They should allow you to see complete responses, but your work will look slightly different as you assess elements of analytical writing.

All examples are provided with the permission of the students who wrote them.

### **EXAMPLE A (pleasant): THE SURPRISE ELEMENT**

I don't remember how I managed to do it, but I actually described what the protagonist (me!) looked like after the accident: "As I began to figure out where I was, the upside-down ATV was pinning my favorite green jeans to the ground and there were bright red splatters of blood on my pink Pocahontas t-shirt"(2). I like that I remembered to describe my physical appearance for my "audience of ignorant animals."

### **EXAMPLE A (unpleasant): THE SURPRISE ELEMENT**

I should have had a better title. I can't believe I used such a lame title. I admit that even *I* don't really want to read "How I Learned Something About Me" (1). All it does is say the assignment. Now I think I should have made my title more specific and interesting, something like "Pinching a Policeman." That's what my story is about.

### **EXAMPLE B: A MOMENT OF MILD EMBARRASSMENT**

I sure wish I had not written this sentence: "During second grade my one desire in life: a play date with Ahmeb's sister" (1). For one thing, this isn't even a sentence because there's no verb (which makes it a fragment) and for another thing, I have misspelled the character's name. Instead, I'd write "I desired only one thing in my life: a play date with Ahmed's sister." Now it's not a fragment and it spells the character's name correctly.

### **EXAMPLE C: A SOURCE OF PRIDE**

I'm really proud of this sentence: "Like a frightened gazelle, my father raced around the corner of the house with the angry pit bull close behind" (2). I selected this sentence because I like the simile and the verb "raced." In an earlier draft, I used the verb "ran" but "raced" is more descriptive. I also like the way this sentence describes the action.