

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 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 readers shoes.

My peer reviewer said he had to re-read this line, so I rewrote 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 our 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.

the outline

the conclusion:
second draft vs final draft

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.

How she'll tell our family is another problem entirely. She's imagined a dramatic reveal ~~at~~over Christmas or Thanksgiving dinner. While the swap isn't necessarily a secret, it's not particularly predictable either ~~so it~~. It's yet to come up spontaneously. "No one will ask because no one knows," she says, "It won't be easy, it won't be fun, but once it's done what are they gonna do?" She'll ~~tell our parents first—our mom will probably think it's ridiculous and our dad won't be happy, possibly defensive.~~ She assumes it would be easier to wait until the change is finalized to announce it. This would prevent anyone's attempts to dissuade her. She'll tell our parents first—our mom will probably think it's ridiculous and our dad won't be happy. It's likely he'll be defensive which I can understand. Perhaps even I'd be devastated if I looked up to all my sister's choices a great deal. We're very different people and it would not be the first time our decisions diverged. Many thoughts emerge when I consider how I feel about it, but above all, I admire her bravery. Ian J is individualistic and bold.

Her mind is set. She's tried Hart and Lockhart but found them too pretentious. In her opinion, the "Wh-" sound compliments her first name, but White is as basic as Smith. She's always come back to, "Ian J. Fox," to which she can confidently say, "that's my name." Logistics are the biggest obstacle now. From our interview, I gather there's no swaying her decision. Soon, one less Smith will crowd the room, but no one should fear our extinction. My I will remain "sky.smith," and Ian J. will remain my sister. Our family tree will sprout an unexpected branch, forged by my-sister Ian J. Fox.