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ENGL 1101
26 April 2017

Bettering Myself

The process of revising a piece of writing is fairly similar to the process of recovering from the trauma of a sexual assault. First, you must admit something is wrong, and that it should be fixed. With this step behind you, it is key to allow others to help you. Most things are difficult to do alone, so a support group can make all the difference in bettering oneself whether it be after a sexual assault or through the process of writing. However, the majority of the work must be done by you in order to get the best results. The following passages come from my third composition. In this composition I argued for the "eye for an eye" form of punishment replacing our current justice system. I chose these passages because I feel they properly show my growth as a writer along with my ideals as a person.

First Draft

For centuries, the effectiveness and morality of the "eye for an eye" mentality ¹¹ has been debated. ²² First seen in the Bible, this statement refers to giving a punishment that is just compared to the crime committed. There are many ways to interpret it. Some take it as face value and believe that it means that the person who committed the crime should receive a punishment that is exactly what they did to the victim; if they remove someone's eye their eye gets removed. Another side is that it just means that the victim of the crime can get compensation rather than just have the criminal suffer. However one may interpret it, it still leaves the question: "Is it moral?" ²² In the series ²² In the television story *Black Mirror*, there is an episode called "White Bear" that addresses this issue by providing both ³³ the side of story ³³ sides of the story, the justice system and the criminal receiving the punishment. According to this show, this form of punishment is not only effective but also praised and celebrated. Punishing criminals by following the "eye for an eye" mentality is completely ethical, and would be effective in changing the influence of the justice system.

For my first draft, I included the reviews provided by my peers. These reviews helped me greatly in noticing major grammatical errors. I used the incorrect word in the second sentence. There are two subjects, so a singular verb did not fit properly. I did not cite the Bible as my source properly when describing the origin of this saying. The phrase "in the series" is missing the word television; without it, it could be confusing as to what type of series I am referring to. The sequencing of the words in the phrase "the side of story" made very little sense in that sentence. Throughout this paragraph, there is a fair amount of passive

voice that needed to be fixed. Because this was my first draft of Composition three, I very lazily threw all of my ideas for the introductory paragraph together.

Second Draft

For centuries, the effectiveness and morality of the "eye for an eye" mentality have been debated⁴⁴ Philosophers have debated... Maybe even tell me which philosophers! . First seen in the Bible , this statement refers to giving a punishment that is just compared⁵⁵ in comparison to? to the crime committed. There are many ways to interpret it. Some take it as face value and believe that it means that the person who committed the crime should receive a punishment that is exactly what they did to the victim ;⁶⁶ Consider a hyphen or colon here as this acts as a full example. if they remove someone's eye, their eye gets removed. Another side is that it means that the victim of the crime can get compensation rather than just have the criminal suffer.⁷⁷ This not very clear. Reword. However one may interpret it, it still leaves the question: "Is it moral?" In the television series *Black Mirror*, the episode "White Bear" addresses this issue by providing both sides of the story: the justice system and the criminal receiving the punishment. According to the show, this form of punishment is not only effective but is also praised and celebrated. In "White Bear," a woman is repeatedly tormented in the same way that she had tormented a little girl. Punishing criminals by following the "eye for an eye" mentality is completely ethical, and would be efficient in changing the influence of the justice system.⁸⁸ There is inefficient build up to this idea. It seems just kind of tacked on at the end of the paragraph.

This passage was taken from the draft that I submitted to my professor, and included is my professor's feedback. Throughout the course, I have found my professor's criticism to be the most useful due to her professionalism. After I received my graded composition, I realized just how much I needed to still fix. I had already corrected much of the awkward diction that my peers had pointed out, but with my professor's input I noticed all of the remaining confusion in my wording. I failed to cite the Bible properly. In a few of my writings for this class, I have had difficulty with certain punctuation, such as colons. When I submitted this essay, I thought that this paragraph was well written with very little flaws. After the review was given by my professor, I realized that it did not flow as well as I had thought.

Final Draft

For centuries, philosophers have debated the effectiveness and morality of the "eye for an eye" mentality. First seen in the Bible verse Exodus 21:24, this statement refers to giving a punishment that is just in comparison to the crime committed. There are many ways to interpret it. Some take it as face value and

believe that it means that the person who committed the crime should receive a punishment that is exactly what they did to the victim: if they remove someone's eye, their eye gets removed. Another side may argue that it means the victim of the crime should get monetary compensation rather than just have the criminal suffer. However one may interpret it, it still leaves the question: "Is it moral?" In the television series *Black Mirror*, the episode "White Bear" addresses this issue by providing both sides of the story: the justice system and the criminal receiving the punishment. In the episode, a woman is repeatedly tormented in the same way that she had tormented a little girl. According to the show, this form of punishment is not only effective but is also praised and celebrated. With this logic, punishing criminals by following the "eye for an eye" mentality is completely ethical and would be efficient in changing the influence of the justice system.

Before writing my final draft of this passage, I considered all of the advice given to me by my peers and professor. I immediately cited the Bible as the source for the saying. I removed the passive voice in the first sentence. I fixed the awkward phrasing present in the second sentence by using the words suggested by my professor. I replaced the semicolon with a colon, fixing the punctuation error. I rephrased the entire sentence she suggested I reword. I also added a sentence between the thesis and the sentence before it. With all of these elements added and changed, the overall flow of the paragraph as dramatically changed for the better.