Four Student Paragraphs with Teacher Revision

Edit out redundancy: Be concise. Don’t forget about flavor language. Use contractions if that feels conversational and natural. Use dialogue if doing so works. Be creative and purposeful in your chosen formatting. Email me if you have questions. If one of these is your paper, use any part or all of the revision, but realize that there could be other ways to improve writing, so feel free to make your own choices.

Student paper:

I was talking with a friend the other day, and we came to a topic of discussion concerning the best things our parents had taught us. The first thing I thought of was how my mom has never worn makeup around me, with the exception of a bit of mascara and lipstick on special occasions. For the entirety of my life, she has shown me that she does not need to wear makeup to feel herself. She has always embraced how her face just naturally is, and in that sense, she has been an excellent role model for me to just feel beautiful as I am.

Suggested revision:

I had a discussion recently with a friend about an amazing childhood lesson. The first thing I thought of was how my mom has never worn makeup around me, with the exception of a bit of mascara and lipstick on special occasions. She has always embraced how her face just naturally is, and in that sense, she has been an excellent role model.

Student paper:

In approximately five months from today, I will, if circumstances allow it, attend university for the first time. There, I will have the opportunity to learn philosophy, mathematics, and similarly virtuous academic subjects from Nobel Peace Prize recipients and Turing Award winners. I will have the opportunity to intern at organizations literally changing the world with their practices. I will do everything I always believed an “adult” would do. And, while doing so, I will play video games in my free time.

Suggested revision:

In approximately five months from today, I will, if circumstances allow, attend university for the first time. There, I will have the opportunity to learn philosophy, mathematics, and similarly virtuous academic subjects from Nobel Peace Prize recipients and Turing Award winners. I will have the opportunity to intern at organizations that change the world. I will do everything I always believed an “adult” would do. And, while doing so, I will play video games.

Student paper:

Have you ever read someone’s rant on social media? Well, I have. And all I want to do is ask why. I understand for someone to have complaints and issues with certain people or events, but I do not think that speaking one’s mind on social media is the best way to handle that problem. Normally when people rant, people tend to exaggerate and use harsh language to express the anger that they feel. Ranting on social media is no exception when it comes to how some people may express their anger.

Suggested revision:

Have you ever read someone’s rant on social media? Well, I have. And all I want to do is ask *why*. Yes, everyone has complaints and issues with certain people or situations, but speaking one’s mind on social media is not the best way to handle problems. Normally when people rant, they exaggerate and use harsh language to express their blistering anger. Ranting on social media usually just makes things worse, and unfortunately these silly blunders can haunt people for years.

Student paper:

 Have you ever woke up, got out of bed, go to your mirror, look at yourself and say, “I don’t look good today.”

Have you ever looked in the mirror and thought you looked bigger than usual.

 “Well, I guess I’m just going to wear a sweater today.”

Have you ever told your mom

 “It’s okay. I really don’t want to go shopping today.”

Have you ever looked at other girls and said

 “I want to look like them.”

Have you ever felt…

 The list never stops. When the image of your body is always in your head you could never get it out. I have always been insecure of my body. No one ever explicitly told me

 “You are fat.”

No one ever yelled, whispered, or even screamed that phrase to me. Yet I still believed that phrase. Ever since I was a little girl I would see beautiful girls on the t.v. and wonder why I do not look like them. I expected my body to look thin and small. But I was dreaming of the impossible.

Suggested revision #1:

Have you ever woken up, gotten out of bed, gone to your mirror, looked at yourself and said, “I don’t look good today”?

Have you ever looked in the mirror and thought you looked bigger than usual? “Well, I guess I’m just going to wear a sweater.”

Have you ever told your mom, “It’s okay. I really don’t want to go shopping today”?

Have you ever looked at other girls and thought, “I want to look like them”?

Have you ever felt . . .

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 The list never ends. When your body image is always in your head, you can’t stop the mantra. I have always been insecure about my body even though no one ever explicitly told me, “You’re fat.” No one ever yelled, whispered, or even screamed that at me. Yet, I still believed it. Even as a small child, seeing beautiful girls on TV made me wonder why I don’t look like them. I expected to be thin and small. I dreamed of the impossible.

Suggested revision #2:

* Have you ever woken up, gotten out of bed, gone to your mirror, looked at yourself and said, “I don’t look good today”?
* Have you ever looked in the mirror and thought you looked bigger than usual? “Well, I guess I’m just going to wear a sweater.”
* Have you ever told your mom, “It’s okay. I really don’t want to go shopping today”?
* Have you ever looked at other girls and thought, “I want to look like them”?
* Have you ever felt . . .

 The list never ends. When your body image is always in your head, you can’t stop the mantra. I have always been insecure about my body even though no one ever explicitly told me, “You’re fat.” No one ever yelled, whispered, or even screamed that at me. Yet, I still believed it. Even as a little girl, seeing beautiful girls on TV made me wonder why I don’t look like them. I expected to be thin and small. I dreamed of the impossible.