

# Memorandum

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**To:** Ms. Frankie Chadwick

**From:** Kasey D. Sexton

**Date:** 12/13/2003

**Re:** Personal Reflection

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From the three essays I have written over the course of the fall 2001 semester, I chose to revise the two that I thought would best express my skills as a writer.

The first essay I chose to revise was, *Cyber Crime: The Age of Online Pedophiles*--and the second, was the Rhetorical Analysis essay I wrote on *Charlize Theron: Beyond the Blonde*.

From the time that I began writing both essays, I have learned several different writing techniques that have helped me in making each piece more productive in content and in style.

One of the main techniques that I have incorporated in both essays is organization. In the previous drafts, most of my sentences and paragraphs were not sequential. This was especially apparent in the Rhetorical Analysis essay. I have learned that it is crucial to write in a way that gives the reader the feeling that they are floating across the words--instead of fumbling over them.

Another technique that proved to be effective for me was shortening some of my long sentences. During the semester I have learned that writing clearly and concisely helps the reader to better understand the thoughts we as writers are trying to describe through our own words. By shortening sentences and choosing illustrative words, I found that my thoughts seemed less clouded.

In addition to tweaking the format of both essays, I also corrected any grammatical or typing errors that I may have had in the previous drafts. I

have discovered that the more proofreading that occurs, the better the outcome of the essay. In past years, and even now, my proofreading skills have not been what they have needed to be; however, I feel that with practice I will achieve better proofreading skills as I continue my career as a writer.

I began taking an interest in writing when I was 12 years old. By the time I was in eighth grade, I was writing in a journal on a daily basis. I wrote in a journal for close to 7 years and in that period, I was able to see the changes in my writing. Over time, I was able to communicate ideas and thoughts that would normally be restrictive through mere words. This was an exciting time for me because I found that through my writing I learned much more about myself. I was able to observe my growth as a person and as a writer.

While this is my fifth year of college, I still have a lot to learn about my own writing and how to improve it. Although true, my writing has become more sophisticated in subject matter and in style.

I have two purposes for writing. The most important reason I write is because I enjoy it. And yet, the reason that I hold most dear to me is writing for the people. I crave for the sentence that makes a reader stop and think--a sentence that persuades my opinion, or a word that best describes the thought I am trying to express.

I am convinced that I will be a good writer with time. This course in editing has unveiled techniques in writing I did not see before. Most importantly, it has proved to be worth while because I can now combine the techniques I have learned in my writing in the future.