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Reflection and Portfolio Cover Letter

As a writer, I feel I developed my identity some time during high school and it's never left me. When I write--or type--my mind reads each word and that voice has remained the same all these years. I'm satisfied with this identity, I'd like to say. But in terms of the content I produce, there is always room for improvement and I always find myself coming a little short.

I've been told my writing is "pretty." But truly what it amounts to is an ability to string some nice words or lines together that only bloom to cover the lack of depth. I'm good at writing in small bursts. I prefer vignettes because I don't need to start anywhere and I don't need to have a definite end. But when longer pieces are required, my writing tends to fall gradually as the paragraphs continue. As such, I've never been too fond of essay writing.

I'm pleased with the writing I've done in this course, for the most part. My main concern is always organization, as I tend to ramble and find I move too liberally from thought to thought, in a way that makes sense to me but not to a reader. I suppose that's because I write more for myself than for another. But the argument project in this course has made me more comfortable with longer pieces of writing. That all five parts were about the same thing allowed me to go back and think about my writing in different ways. It also helped to prepare for part E because much of the work was done prior, so the 2000-word task felt eased.

My introductions tend to be good, but the body--the important part--don't live up to the standard as much as I'd like it to. Particularly when it comes to the synthesis of ideas, as in parts D and E, I could find much room for improvement. I also often question just how clearly I express my thoughts. I fall victim to the trap of wordiness and flowery language maybe too many times for my own good.

Nevertheless, I stand by everything I've written in this course. Every one of the writings can be improved--and everything I've ever written in my life--but I'm happy with what I've accomplished. I've measurably improved as a writer, in my own mind. My research skills are better and lengthy papers aren't so daunting anymore.

As always, no way to go now but forward.