

General Feedback: Admission's Essay

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- First off, I really liked your essay! I think it's a good topic to choose: something that showcases emotional growth, experience with/acceptance of other cultures, and a willingness to learn and change. These are all very important qualities just about anywhere, but especially in a college setting.
- As an editor, I really appreciate your writing style; oftentimes, writers try too hard to indulge in the poetic and lose their focus, which makes editing difficult and for their own sake muddles their point and makes an enemy of their word limit. While you do get poetic in some places--and I have encouraged you to in others!--your writing is a good medium for complicating your prose where you want and still getting your point across when that needs to come first. I know a lot of writers (*cough* me *cough*) who aren't all that great at keeping focus like you do.
- For my own comments, feel free to take anything I wrote as an example word-for-word if you want. I'm not trying to sound full of myself—I'm a ghostwriter, so people using what I write for them is my job! Just make sure whatever ends up in *your* essay is what makes *you* feel heard, no matter who else contributes to the process.
- For what it's worth, there's a "hot topic" word right now in academia, "diaspora"--it originates from the Greek Old Testament (called *Septuagint*), and the Ancient Greek words for "scatter" and "across," same as "disperse" in English. It means the dispersion of a person or group of people from their original homeland (historically the Jews from Israel, kidnapped African natives, the Pilgrims, etc, but now it's not strictly used to describe unwilling relocation), and it's being used in a lot of academic studies of multiculturalism, immigration, and post-colonialism. If you're comfortable with trying to sneak in some big-ticket words, you could work that one in--maybe comment on that by "participating in her journey of diasporic growth," you were able to "recognize how important it is to experience cultures other than your own..." etc. You already have a bit about there in a later paragraph, so, like I said, for what it's worth.
- Big things you want to focus on:
 - building your "thesis"--which in this case is like a meaning, a lesson--by maturing your point methodically, one step at a time, like proving a thesis in an academic paper;
 - showing, not telling, by describing aspects of the situation that we can characterize on our own, and later giving your thoughts on what all of this means to your growth and maturing;
 - lastly, talking it through! I didn't mention this on the paper comments, but one of the most important parts of a "to-be-read" essay like this (as opposed to a "to-be-graded," let's say) is that it has syntactical flow. Not saying you have to be able to rap it, but you need to be able to read it through, OUT LOUD, without having to stop because you've encountered an awkward moment in syntax--maybe where a phrase sounds off next to the one after it, or you only listed two things when it sounds better to have three (Rule of Threes!!!!!!!), or where your phrasing or

tone comes off more "proper" than other sections, making it an uneven tone. When we read back our own writing, there are a LOT of things that we correct about it unconsciously (which is why, even though a lot of the people I work for are pretty clean writers, I still get paid to proofread); grammar, spelling, a dropped word, and, very often, awkward flow. Print it out on paper, grab a pen, find an empty room, and read it **out loud**. Read it out loud to your cat. Transcribe it onto the musical score of Les Mis and sing it out loud. Just get it out of your brain so you can hear the things you might've missed before, and don't stop working on it until you're so happy with it that you want to read it out loud to everyone you know.