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Reflection on Research Paper Revision

The piece I chose for this revision assignment was a paper from ENGL 335. In this paper, I compared two stories: *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka to “The Babylon Lottery” by Borges by tying them together with a theme that appears in both texts: exploitation of the lower class in capitalist society. I also made connections from the texts to present day United States using that theme, and relating it to the COVID pandemic. I wanted to revise it because it is a topic that is still very important to me, and it is one of the few papers I have written on the subject.

I wrote this essay when we had just moved online due to COVID, so I wanted to revisit that section of my paper, and strengthen the points that I had made. Looking back, there is more to be said on that, and the section felt a bit rushed. I wanted to expand, and add more connections from the stories to the real world to show why the points, and themes of these texts are so relevant, and still apply to society despite their being published in the early 1900s. I also wanted to expand on Friedrich Engels in the introduction to make it more relevant to the essay since I opened it with a quote from him.

I really enjoyed working on this piece because it allows me to connect literature to the modern world, and discuss a very important topic. I like being able to pull from the big events happening today such as the pandemic and the labor movement that is currently happening in the United States, and relating it to the texts. The current labor movement was an interesting addition to the piece that I had not even thought about until I was actually rereading the essay, and in the

process of revision. I felt that addition to the piece was really interesting, and fun to write because I had not even expected to put it in the essay. I removed some parts of the paper because they felt too repetitive, and did not bring any additional meaning to the piece. It just felt like it was trying to meet a word count, and it flows better without those parts.

I am including this piece in my portfolio because it is the first essay I worked on relating to the struggles of the working class due to capitalism, and it was something I enjoyed working on. I got a lot out of writing it the first time, and revisiting it really made me think more about why these connections are important. There was a lot of room for improvement, and I made quite a few additions to some of the paragraphs. The revised is longer than the original even with some parts removed. I think there is even more I could do with this piece in the future as well.