

Date: March 2024

To: Dual Credit & Accelerated Writing Students

From: Mrs. C =)

Re: Your Writing & My Response

A Few Things About Written Feedback

1. I would like you to understand that my comments are part of the teaching and learning process. I write comments not just to evaluate your essay, but to help you see how the writing lessons and topics from class emerge in your writing. To better understand comments, actively participate in class, and ask questions, either in class or independently.
2. Comments and feedback are intended to be constructive. I value your ideas, what YOU have to say, and I want to hear from you.
3. I would like you to approach each piece of writing not as an independent entity, but as a brief moment in your overall development as a writer. My commentary is meant to be useful in this assignment AND in your future writing.
4. I need you to accept responsibility for using my feedback in the revision process. I also expect you to share your strengths as a writer when commenting on your peer's papers. (And this goes beyond your skills in grammar.)
5. Please understand that comments are both descriptive and evaluative. Writing a letter grade would be the *least* interesting thing I do as a writing instructor (one reason I don't). Take the time to re-read the entire essay alongside my commentary to understand the grade in context. I invite you to use comments (both mine and those of your peers) as an opportunity to talk further about your writing.
6. **SPECIFICALLY: Start with the long comment at the bottom (the one that starts with your name and ends with mine. Then, and only then, go back to the top and work your way through.**

Note that the expectations in this class may be considerably different than that of writing in classes you have taken previously. Instead of looking for understanding of a particular text (i.e. piece of literature) or a response that reflects points made by the teacher for you to "memorize," more focus will be placed on the writing *itself*, the words you choose, the way you "say it," the feelings or understanding your words provide for the reader.

Writing is a way to discover new things. It can reveal things you didn't even know you knew. Quit writing what you THINK the teacher wants to hear and instead find something you really need to say and then. . . say it well.

*These notices are patterned off the manifesto written by the University of Arizona Writing Program, featured in the work of Nancy Sommers *Responding to Student Writers*.