

STUDENT LETTER EXCERPT #1:

A lot of what the class has taught me is confidence in my writing. By knowing the things I should focus on—to be, clichés, sentence length—I don't stare blankly at a paper wondering what to fix. I have a purpose in my editing process, asking myself questions like, "do I have parallel structure?" as opposed to open ended broad ones like, "Is it good?" Understanding why writing appeals to an audience changes what I strive to write and how I get there.

Similar to many of my other pursuits, I need to dedicate more of my time to the writing process if I'm going to get better. Again I feel like I've made some great strides, and it's shown in papers here and in other classes, but I'm still missing that 3rd or 4th reread and edit cycle to really iron out final kinks. I really hate reading things I've already written, because hey, I wrote it so obviously I know what's going on. That's a vice I'm going to have to get over for the second half of this class if I want to take a next step.

STUDENT LETTER EXCERPT #2:

Quite honestly, my writing has improved a lot; my best piece of writing so far is my personal essay. I would say my biggest issue coming into this class was grammar and choppy writing because that was what has been said by other teachers. After this first quarter, I started making conscious decisions on sentence length; I began looking where I can split very long sentences and combine sentences where it started getting too choppy. I've realized how sentence structure creates rhythm and flow to writing because whenever I write I listen to music. If music had the same beat and flow without variation then it would become pretty boring to listen to, so with that in mind let the music that I'm listening to while writing carry me. All in all, I would say my biggest upgrade in writing so far is my varying sentence length.

The thing I need to improve the most is depth. I tend to mention things but not go in-depth. When I do write with a lot of depth and detail it comes out good, but for the majority of my writing, I don't go in-depth. On my personal essay feedback, it mentioned this and the second thing I need to improve the most is clarity. Sometimes I write in a way that I will get but no one else will understand. In a piece of writing that is being read by someone else, it needs to be understood by them if it is not then you need to improve in your clarity. I will always understand my writing but I need to work on how to make understandable to others.

FIGURE 3.9 • Student Mid-Semester Letters