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Writing with Archives

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Diary 3

My most recent peer response session was with Nia and we looked over each other's narrative essays. We began by both exchanging essays with one another via email. I read through hers once thoroughly before making any comments or suggestions so that I would have a good basis as to what exactly she was writing about. I then went back and analyzed each individual sentence and its structure; I looked at whether or not she effectively used the know-new chain, transitioned successfully between sentences and most importantly was approaching the prompt effectively. I went through and made comments in the margins based on what I thought needed to be fixed. This was the first time I had worked with her, so I was not quite sure if she was using the same approach as me.

I emailed Nia her narrative essay and looked over it with her, guiding her through what I thought needed some revisions. I explained to her that she had some great ideas, but in order to successfully execute the known-new chain, she would need to use more concrete examples in order to prove her message. Everything she was writing seemed valid, but without evidence, there was no proof. I also found a few grammatical errors that I showed her, but that was a quick fix.

Nia then emailed me my narrative essay with her comments and walked me through the remarks she had made. She thought that my biggest issue was transitioning between sentences. My writing seemed a little choppy, she explained. I acknowledged everything she had said to me

and took my paper to the library right after class and read it from her perspective. I realized that she was correct and I did have some trouble transitioning. I completely revised my paper, and asked a friend to read it over before turning it in. My friend thought that my transitions were smooth. Working with Nia truly helped me to improve my writing, because I would never have caught the errors that she did. It is important to have someone look at your work through another lens, because each and every person has a very different perspective on things.