

SAMPLE A · POLISH

Ordinary polish — first-year history paper

Grammar, diction, tense, and transitions only. Argument and evidence are left as the student wrote them.

Red strike = original. Blue bold = our rewrite. No comments on the thesis — that is the Deep Edit desk.

Excerpt from “The Color of Choice: A First-Year Reflection on Career Tests”

Everyone who lives and wants to survive ~~wants to survive and prosper~~ in this ~~booming chaotic modern~~ **crowded, developed** world needs a career. Regardless of whether the career fits us, ~~we, because of pressures from our friends, families, and, even, the society we,~~ **pressure from friends, family, and society** forces most of us to choose a path ~~at the time we formally enter the society, which for most of us is when mostly is the time we graduate from college~~ **when we graduate**. As an international student from East Asia — ~~which is frequently considered by Westerners are usually considered by some westerners as “the Confucian world,”~~ **a region Western readers still lazily call “the Confucian world”** — making my own choices ~~can at times present unusual difficulty appears to become a problem~~ **has often felt unusually hard**.

My life until now ~~has been is full of the choices that others made for me~~ **has been full of choices other people made**, so I sometimes feel I lack the ~~extremely lack the chances and~~ ability to decide on my own. While I ~~was am~~ studying a major I ~~was am~~ not interested in and ~~feeling great hesitation facing hardship while trying to on deciding~~ **hesitating over** my future, I took Grinnell’s Learning from Alumni class ~~with the goal some wishes of improving my learning the ability to make decisions on my own self decisions and exploring my real dreams~~ **to practice deciding, and to look at the work I actually wanted**.

After a semester of listening to alumni, I ~~learned to make a more specific future plans, and acknowledged the good parts of being who I am, along with nd the importance of feeling confident about my having good personalities and joy during career path~~ **left with a more specific plan, and with a less ashamed account of who I already was** — including the value of feeling steady on a path that still has joy in it.

What this pass does not do

We did not challenge the Color Q test, the Gold/Green reading, or the student’s conclusion. Those belong in a Deep Edit: Topic, Logic, Evidence, Critique. Polish only makes the English land.