

# Good writing versus great writing—learning to look at the details.

Rough:

It was August—hot, sunny, and that magical month before school steals students away from their freedom. My mom drove us to the concert, which was held at the Target Center. I wore black fishnet tights, a tight black shirt, and jeans with holes where the tights showed through. I couldn't wait to see Lady Gaga come out on stage. This was a moment I'd been waiting for all week—to see a true icon, someone who has changed the entire music scene. A huge variety of people from all ages and walks of life were here. They wore a bunch of crazy outfits with feathers and chains, and they were screaming and chanting her name. Then, the moment came: she stepped out on stage.

Final:

Wigs were the most popular accessory. A boy next to me wore a neon purple beehive with plastic spiders stuck in the hairs as though they were in a giant web, and the girl next to him wore a platinum blonde Marilyn Monroe throwback. No-clothes-at-all was a popular look, too. Or just chains. Or just feathers.

I wore a tight black cotton shirt to hide any sweat stains, cozy faded jeans with holes up the length of the leg, and fishnet tights to show beneath those holes for texture. Subtle and predictable—but there is no use trying to out-Gaga Gaga. She walked out in a sulfur-smelling cloud of smoke, and I saw one limb at a time approach from the cloud. First, an arm covered in red lace, then a foot in a six-inch platform heel, then a naked leg.

# Good writing versus great writing—learning to look at the details. (Annotations)

*what does it refer to?* *obvious - expected w/ August* *abstract - real meaning?* *is the idea of August relevant to the whole TP?*

*who cares: relevance?* *seems obvious - show don't tell* *like who? show, don't tell*

*richer* *clear* *better description, but it still can't "see it"*

*not a strong ending - true reader doesn't get to see what the moment (looks or sounds) like*

Final:

strong image right into where the scene matters.

*metaphor to create image* *specific* *specific* *proper noun - strong image*

*repetition of parallel lines show the ridiculous scene - & creates a nice honesty* *of snapping from one image to the next - over-stimulation*

*show/smell!* *loaded image - specific but also reveals detail about their ends on strong*

*richer* *clear* *better description, but it still can't "see it"*

Rough to Revision - only keep the "old"! Images + voice 2 a great grade.

First/second draft →

### What They Don't Tell You about Depression

They don't tell you about the haze that lives behind your eyes. Soupy fog. Cloudy heaven, but it's really hell. Everything seems blurry all the time, even on a sunny day. They don't tell you that the medication makes it worse, the pill you swallow sits in your throat like a lump, no matter how much water you drink. Every day you wonder if you should take that medication, but the doctor says you need it to be "normal." Sometimes the world spins like you just got off a merry-go-round. Or you can feel your eyes darting back and forth like you're watching a tennis match.

Your bones ache. Your body is a walking icicle, all snowstorm and Jack Frost, as though your bones are hollow and water has settled in them and frozen into the marrow. Your bones are white, frozen wands. It physically hurts to move. They don't tell you that when you move your body, it creaks like a door hinge. You are a walking haunted house. It is like there are cobwebs in your brain.

Revised draft →

### What They Don't Tell You about Depression

They don't tell you about the <sup>Soupy fog</sup> ~~haze~~ <sup>that smokes machine, that ironic, blurry</sup> that lives behind your eyes, <sup>Cloudy heaven, but it's really hell.</sup> Soupy fog. <sup>Effexor™ breeds vertigo,</sup> Cloudy heaven, but it's really hell. <sup>white</sup> Everything seems blurry all the time, even on a sunny day. They don't tell you that the medication makes it worse, <sup>an inverted Adam's Apple.</sup> the pill you swallow sits in your throat like (a lump), <sup>merry-go-round</sup> no matter how much water you drink. Every day you wonder if you should take that medication, but the doctor says you need it to be "normal." Sometimes the world spins like <sup>color,</sup> you just got off a merry-go-round. Or you can feel your eyes darting <sup>and somehow hum</sup> back and forth like you're watching a tennis match. <sup>match</sup> ~~cliche~~

Your bones ache, <sup>and</sup> Your body is a walking icicle, all snowstorm and Jack Frost, as though your bones are hollow and water has settled in them and frozen into the marrow, <sup>and</sup> Your bones are white, frozen wands, <sup>and</sup> It physically hurts to move. They don't tell you that when you move your body, <sup>ligaments</sup> it creaks like a door hinge, You are a walking haunted house. <sup>stretched thin, like marshy-evaporated tendons.</sup> It is like there are cobwebs in your brain, stretched thin, like marshy-evaporated tendons.

\* Why did you cut that?!

This is an image-drive essay that only needs to be 1/2 pg. long. White instinct tells you to keep everything, you must trust only your images to tell the story. Everything I cut is either a) telling, not showing (OE) b) redundant.