

Behind the Control

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6/12/08

~~The~~ ^{weather} ~~sun~~ was cool on a fall afternoon.

I had just completed my checklist and stored ~~the~~ all of the maps in the left side pocket ~~of~~ next to the seat.

Miss
Summative
Final

On my knee sat a list of radio frequencies

that I ^{would} ~~will~~ need for the trip. I started the engine and ~~start~~ ^{began} rolling to the

tense
shift:
see PHG
72-76

Choose either
present or past
(cont. present tense
puts the reader in the
action; has a
more active voice)
which is why
you want to
use it
here...

runway. After completing the engine

run-up procedures ~~an~~ I taxied

the plane to the hold short line

next to the runway. I callout

on the radio "7039 Charlie is taking

runway 18 for takeoff". Adding a

Choose words that
vary your sentences

Little power ~~to~~ I roll out

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to the center line of the

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runway. Gauges all set, I'll ~~take~~ ~~the~~ all the

^{power the} airplane ~~all the power it can~~ ^{will.} provide.

Wow! what a rush as the airplane picks up speed. @ Thirty, fifty, one

hundred feet Now, two hundred feet

and the wings are starting to gain

lift. Three hundred feet and I pull

back on the control wheel. Now that

sinking ^{sensation} ~~sensation~~ sets in as the airplane

starts climbing ~~lifts off~~. I imagine this is like the

sensation when someone on a roller coaster

goes over the top of a big hill ;

~~there is~~ ^{but} I wouldn't know because I'm afraid of heights.

Nice, you just
ripped a switch on
the reader



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There is no other place to

be than behind the control of

an airplane. Many people have experienced

takeoffs in small and large airplanes, but

for me the excitement of piloting a small

airplane is ^{why I like to be behind the control.} ~~the place to be~~. As I gain

altitude and turn west, I change the radio

frequency and callout "New Orleans approach

Cherokee 2039 Charlie, off of Slidell

climbing to 7500 feet," New Orleans

approach replies "Cherokee 2039 Charlie

radar contact, proceed to destination",

(radar contact means they will assist in keeping airplanes ^{apart,})

Now as I climb I can see the outskirts

of Covington. From the left seat I can

clear
photos

see all of roads and streets filled
with vehicles, some appear to ~~be~~ be

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in long lines. There are no lines

up here. I continue to climb and

the radio announces "Cherokee 7039 Charlie

you are leaving my airspace, contact Baton

Rouge, good day." Once I have changed

the frequency I call out, over the radio,

"Baton Rouge, Cherokee 7039 Charlie

with you at 2500^{feet}". The response on the

radio is "Cherokee 7039 Charlie, radar

contact". Flying over Baton Rouge I can

see all of the ^{traffic} ^{up} congestion; From this ^{up} advantage

point I can see the entire city, how

the roads come and go, north, south, east

and west. As a matter of fact

I can see for about 25 miles in

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every direction. ~~The~~ The Mississippi

River is just ahead, ^{and} the river itself

winds from north to south. The

river is a great navigational point, and

I check the time ~~and~~ ^{to} find I'm a little

ahead of time. ^{cup.} there must be a slight

tail wind at this altitude. so you said you're
concerned of heights, so reflect
on this a little.

At The day turns to night and I

turn on the navigational lights. ("See and

be seen" is my ^{so} moto.) As my eyes

begin to adjust I can see I'm over

some small towns. I can see the

street lights on Main Street. Night

time is ~~where~~ when you really ^{get} excited.

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Imagine driving down a two lane ~~road~~ highway, no street lights, and all of a sudden

the ^{sp}stripping is faded beyond use on the

black top. ~~highway~~ You know you

can continue but the little hairs

stick up on the back of your neck, cautious.

Cautiously, I continue. ^{new paragraph} Soon Baton Rouge

is on the radio telling me to change frequencies

to Fort Polk. Once I talk to Fort Polk

I start looking for my destination. I

can't help just looking out the window

and admiring the view. During Christmas

time the view will be extraordinary.

a nice
moment
in this
essay

repetitive

I better not ~~drift~~ let
myself drift ^{or} to far, I need to
stay on course. ~~As~~ As I look at

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my watch I see that I should be there
very soon, but I still have not spotted

the airfield. Another 5 minutes goes by

without seeing it. Then I think I
can see that ~~trailing~~ revolving light, yes it

is definitely the familiar site I want

to see. A couple of minutes later and I

can see the blue lights that line the

runway. ~~With~~ With this I take

a sigh of relief. I line up the

airplane with the blue lights and pull

back on the power. ~~Sitting~~ Gliding down I

So, again, reflect on
this a bit. How
does this feel? How
wtf are you
thinking?

am ~~continuously~~ ^{continuously} ~~looking~~ looking at

runway ^{lights} and my airspeed. All

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I can see is the blue lights, but where exactly is the runway? Oh! I forgot to

turn on the landing lights, there the runway is. ^{What do these do? Keep in mind your audience aren't pilots.} What a relief, as I get closer to the runway I keep stowing down

until about one foot from the runway

I gently pull back on the control wheel

and bring the airplane down with a

nice chirp from the wheels. I made

it in just over 2 1/2 hours, this same trip

would take 6 hours by car.

Once coming to a complete stop

I realize that the one place I ~~went~~ ^{most}

went to be is in the left
 seat behind the control
 wheel of an airplane.

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Did you know that only .2% of all
 Americans ~~know~~ have their license to fly?

It makes me ^{so} ~~feel~~ proud to be ~~among~~ ^{among}

the .2%. I encourage all people to
 go out to your local airfield and check

out the local flying clubs. Become part
 of the .2%. Hmmm... This conclusion is
 lacking the power of the rest
 of the essay. So why the pride?
 does this have anything to do with
 conquering a fear of heights?
 This conclusion suggests that you
 simply want to be part of a club,
 but I think its more than that.

OVER →

David -

This is a strong essay in many ways. Lots of details, a clear statement of position. But it could use more reflection, more development of ideas. There are also some grammar/mechanical issues (see marginal comments).

B

Essay #1 (in class essay)
English 1158
Summer 2008
Roberts

Personal Reflective Response Essay

The essays by Kingsolver and White are both examples of Personal Narrative, an essay that uses storytelling techniques to discuss an idea of personal interest to the author. For this first assignment, you'll be asked to do the same. Like Kingsolver and White, your essay should be anchored in an exploration of place and how that place is tied to larger ideas outside the narrow realm of Self.

In order to complete this assignment, you must first choose a place that you wish to write about. It could be your family's camp in Lacombe, your thinking spot under that big tree in the park, your grandmother's kitchen, the bathroom in your high school where you got caught smoking cigarettes for the first time, or even your dorm room. Don't just pick any place, pick a place that you feel confident that you can write about. Remember that it will be up to you to explain to your readers what this place means to you and why. You will be persuading your audience to see the significance of this place—why this place matters.

This essay will be evaluated by how well it uses the techniques discussed in class to convey an idea (such as using specific scenes rooted in time and place, sensory details, an appropriate tone, etc.) about a certain place with which the reader may or may not be familiar. In other words, this assignment is designed to get you thinking about how to focus on a main idea, develop that idea with a number of concrete examples, and utilize a variety of techniques to engage the reader and hold their attention.

Strategies for writing:

Focus your essay on a dominant idea. Organize your essay around a clearly identified central point. Use concrete images and detail as support for that idea.

Develop your essay using techniques discussed in class. Use sensory details, comparisons and images, note changes, and don't forget to consider what is not there.

Organize your essay using a certain order, a distinct point of view, and an appropriate tone.

Format: Your essay should be composed in ink on lined-paper and should be at least 500 words. Place your name, ID number, and the date in the top right hand corner of each page, along with a page number. Skip lines, indent each new paragraph, and try to leave one-inch margins by writing between the vertical red lines on the page (so that I can more easily fit comments on the page). You will have the entire class period to compose your essay.

Date: to be written in class on THURS 6/12