Reflection on Catcher in the Rye vs. Dead Poet’s Society Essay

This essay was a compare and contrast essay of the Dead Poet’s Society and Catcher in the Rye and the similarities and differences of how each conformed. I feel that I need to improve the ways that I get my message across and also the structure of my paragraphs. Organization seems to always be an issue for me and I feel that my essays are kind of messy. I feel like I have gotten a little bit better about it but the main problem for me is that I don’t take enough time to plan everything out in an orderly fashion. I feel that another thing I need to work on is I need to use relevant example in order to back up my thesis, which also needs improvement.

My goals for this essay were to compare and contrast the way Holden conformed compared to the way the group of boys in Dead Poet’s Society did but to do it in a neat way. I really wanted to write about how different the two actually were and how the two stories really weren’t that similar since Holden only conformed in certain situations but overall didn’’t completely conform while the boys at first conformed but then changed the way that they thought entirely. I feel like my goals for this project didn’t really change. I just wanted to use really good examples from the book and movie in order to prove my point which overall, I think I did pretty well. There are a few paragraphs that I could have used more information on, but I really do think that I supported my claim in general.

I feel that my essay is quite different from other people’s since I took a different view on the conformity in both the book and the movie. I felt that the conformity in Catcher in the Rye occurred throughout the book in different situations and Holden used it as almost a coping mechanism in order to gain the confidence to talk to people. Overall, I didn’t really feel that he conformed to society mainly because he knew that he was in the wrong to run away from school and go out by himself after he realized what an impact he had on Phoebe. In Dead Poet’s Society, the conformity that was occurring was more noticeable. The boys didn’t conform because they had a strong leader that lead them away from the norms of society. It was in this way that I felt my opinions about the two different stories were different from other people’s views. I want people to notice that I have different ideas about many things compared to other people in my writing.

One thing that I would like to improve on is, once again, structuring my essay and also using more high-level vocabulary. I feel that both of these things are essential in a good essay. I would also like to work on my neatness in my essays. By this, I mean that I don’t want to have my paragraphs running into each other by talking about the same thing in each paragraph. I want to have clear, different topic sentences for each.

Next year, I want to work on arguing my side that I take on my essays. Sometimes, I feel like I mention my opinion in the beginning but never restate it. I also would like to work on efficient ways to outline my essay in order to maximize my time that I spend on writing the essay, even if it isn’t a timed write. These are just a few things that I plan on improving on next year.