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Ms. Katrina Kennett, English Department
Plymouth South High School
490 Long Pond Rd.
Plymouth, MA 02360

Dear Ms. Kennett,

Just like the technique of a psychiatrist to determine a person's mindset, as soon as the word "nonfiction" is said my thoughts immediately bounce to the word "boring." I'm a fantasy person, my interests are where the wizards and talking trees are, so my feelings about this unit were initially dismal. Things got worse when we were told we had to find sources of nonfiction, all I could only relate that to was reading numerous amounts of textbooks. After the day with the ipads where we looked at all the different examples I found that blogs and such counted under the same category. In this unit I was able to learn what nonfiction meant to me, it is any type of writing that deals with something specific in reality. Everyday I was working on how to evolve my project into a fuller version of itself, and by doing so I transformed myself into a better writer.

At first my only hope was to wrap my head around the idea of nonfiction itself, to do that I scrolled through the internet searching for anything that caught my attention. When I learned that the "Nikola Tesla is the Greatest Geek Ever" cartoon was considered a piece of nonfiction, a faint idea started to shine like a tiny candle. Over the next few days I found other articles that added some gasoline to the flame. I noticed that through every text I was finding, there was a clear point being made without any ambiguous endings. That was when I realized that I had a point to make and that I could make an argumentative piece of nonfiction out of it. The rest of the week was spent on selecting articles that would help improve the logic of my writing and actually accomplishing the writing. With a precision focus I was able to give nonfiction a new place in my life and help get my ideas to be put on the page. Outside of school I'm able to recognize a piece of nonfiction for what it is, and enjoy it too.

To show my understanding of nonfiction in this unit I made [a persuasive paper about the truth behind shoes](#). I felt that to write this I needed to have a passion, a real belief that is out in the open, not hidden and coded like a secret message in the text. I wanted my final product to be something I could put my name on and call it my own. My mentor texts were like the foundation of a building, my project couldn't stand without them. They helped back me up and give an insight into the topic that I hadn't noticed before. I think that my product has a real message, it may sound humorous, but I'm really trying to say something with it. After a reader finishes it my hopes are that they take something away with them, one of the things about nonfiction is to help shape the way the reader looks at the world.

This unit was a little tough for me to ease into, I'm used to having an activity every day that has been planned out for me. At first I didn't really know how to be productive, but once the wheels were greased up then the whole thing started rolling along. With each task I spent around one or two days to ensure that they were completed to the fullest, and was able to comprehend everything. My opinions are in the text and I think they came across in a clear way, my favorite thing that I did was the product. This packet that I am passing in is more than a project, it's a little piece of me and my beliefs.

Sincerely,

Emily N