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**In-Class Writing, Strong Pieces**

Voice Exercise:

1. Gus, I have some bad news to tell you, I smashed the front of your car. I’m so, so sorry! I know you needed your car to help your confidence on your big date tonight, but it was an accident. I was almost home last night when my neighbors dog ran into the street and I swerved to try and avoid hitting it, and in doing so, I hit a lamp post instead. Again, I’m very sorry and I feel really *really* bad, and I will try to make it up to you.
2. I’m really sorry about your dog Annie. He ran out into the street last night when I was on my way home, and I tried to miss him, but that wasn’t enough. I know you’ve been wanting a dog for a long time, and you finally got one, and now because of me he’s gone. So if you can forgive me, and when you’re ready, I’ll buy you a new puppy.

Restaurant Evaluation:

About two weekends ago, my friend and I went to the downtown location of the local restaurant chain Hires. When we stepped inside the restaurant, we were immediately greeted by the host, and informed that we could sit anywhere we would like. However, once we chose a table and sat down, it was several minutes before a server approached us. When a server did come to our table, we were asked first if we were ready to order without being offered drinks beforehand. Once we ordered and the food arrived, it was delicious. The burger and fries were cooked just right, and the meal hit the spot. The atmosphere in the restaurant was busy and a little noisy, which was fine because it was a Friday night, but the table set up was a little awkward. My friend and I basically sat with a couple we didn’t know, because our two person tables were that close together. Overall, the experience was ok because the service and atmosphere was lacking, but the food was great as usual.

Popular Trend Evaluation:

A popular fashion trend that is happening right now that I extremely dislike, are bedazzled shirts and jeans, and also jeans with large stitching. Besides the fact that this style is popular and “in” right now, I think that people like it because it’s flashy, attention getting, and screams “look at me!” I however, feel that sequined, beaded, and foil-like detailing on clothing looks tacky. Maybe people feel that this kind of detailing draws attention to and shows off their “assets”, but I think that there is a better way to go about doing that.

Advertising in a Magazine:

A magazine that I have looked at recently was Vogue. I picked up this magazine because pop singer Adele was on the cover, and the issues feature article was an interview with her. Vogue magazine is all about high fashion and the latest trends and designer clothes. I would say about 90% of the content in Vogue is advertisements for fashion designers and brand name jewelry companies. Vogue seems to argue that if you’re not thin like the models in the ads, or wearing the latest clothing trends, that you are not good enough or won’t be successful if you don’t have the latest looks.

Ad Slogan:

One ad slogan that I’ve always disliked is the “every kiss begins with Kay” used by Kay Jewelers. I understand what they’re trying to do with the slogan by targeting men to buy their jewelry for the special woman in their lives, because if they do they’ll be “rewarded” with a kiss, because all women just *love* gold, diamonds, and jewels. Besides this kind of stereotyping that the slogan represents in Kay Jeweler’s commercials, if you get really nit-picky about the slogan it is unrealistic. Every kiss is not going to begin with Kay, or any other jeweler for that matter. That would make kissing really expensive, and it could also been seen as a form of bribery.