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## Indecisive and Doubtful Words

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# Indecisive and Doubtful Words

This piece of writing is not really an essay. This piece of writing could just be seen as a person voicing her feelings on her writing or writing in general. While I was writing the second sentence of this thing, I went back to the first sentence and added “really” in between “not” and “an”. The “could” in the second sentence was something I put in there the first time I wrote it without even thinking. I have written a lot of essays in my educational career, and all of the ones I consider good are essays that got good grades and that my teachers and/or peers told me I did a good job on. When self-describing my own work before I submit it, the highest praise I give it is “good enough” or “okay”. Whenever I even try to talk about the quality of my writing, or answer questions in class, I tend to throw in “probably”, “maybe”, or stuff like “I suppose” instead of “I think”. Sometimes, even when I use “I think” it is a less definitive version of “I know” because I am afraid of backlash if I am wrong about something. And I throw in a “sometimes” because my memory of the past gets foggy and I don’t remember how much I have actually done something. If I am wrong about something, I am more than willing to admit my wrongdoing. I might have only added that sentence since I might be afraid of people thinking I know all the right answers. And by might I mean it is 100% how I feel but I have to have an element of uncertainty or else I might look dumb or worse, self-centered. I also hate misunderstandings and being misinterpreted, and I tend to over-explain the words I write sometimes as a result.

Anyway, essays. Essays are something that I generally enjoy writing despite their highly formulaic nature. This is a nature that has been discussed extensively in some of the readings I have had to read for this semester. I think I might have used to not enjoy writing essays, which is a statement I am making because I earnestly do not remember if I enjoyed writing essays

when I was younger but have a feeling I might not have hated writing them. That previous sentence might have been a bit of a run-on, but I am unsure hence the “might”. Anyways again, there have been several things I have read this semester that have made me continue to doubt the quality of my writing. I hesitated to type that previous sentence because I do not want anyone to interpret me as disliking much of the readings I have done for this class. Has my years of being taught to write essays in a certain way completely and utterly squashed out my ability to write well? Is my writing in my own voice or is it just generic? I would like to think that my writing is in my own voice since I always imagine myself speaking my words aloud when I am writing, but I feel that whenever I am confident about anything relating to my academic skills the rug immediately gets pulled out from under me. Like I am not allowed to have confidence because it is pointless and I am actually just getting a big head. This probably explains why William Coles’ *The Plural I* affected me as much as it did, because if a teacher ever put my writing on blast in front of the class like that I would probably begin to actively hate writing and never feel like I could do anything right ever again.

I included the probably in that previous sentence because while I am confident that that is why that piece of writing affected me so much, I’m always worried about any potential margin of error in anything I say that I can never speak certainly. I have likely always felt this way to an extent, in high school I was deathly afraid of getting any problems or questions incorrect because I was worried it meant I was an idiot. In elementary school, I was praised by my teachers for not acting out in class, and I guess overtime my brain took this praise and mutated it into meaning that I was smarter than the rest of my classmates because I didn’t act out. This notion was almost completely destroyed in middle and high school, where I struggled in a fair bit of my classes and started to feel like I was a complete failure if I got any questions wrong. It was on its way to fading away, and it certainly doesn’t feel as exaggerated as it did when I was in high school. Although I’ve noticed a similar feeling popping up since I started being active on Twitter, where people always think less of you as a person whenever

you get any kind of factoid wrong. I feel like these thought patterns have bled into my writing, where I worry that getting one super tiny thing wrong makes me a complete and utter idiot. If a second essay that I write gets a lower score than the first one, I sometimes spiral and worry that it means all my progress is gone and that I'm actually just getting worse.

Tend to.

Sometimes.

Feel like.

Might.

Probably.

...

I can't keep getting away with this. I don't know what I'm supposed to do or if this is a habit I can even break. Why can't I just commit to a statement I'm writing instead of being so darn wishy-washy? Is this even something I should fix? I am not sure if being indecisive all the darn time in writing is considered a negative thing like it is with making decisions, but dammit if I don't want to fix the latter and fixing the former might help with that. Does it even have a real impact? I'm sure it will. Er, pretty sure it will.

**Written By:**  
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