


# Drafting and Revising

AOL Writing Workshop 4



**Young  
Scholars  
Circle**

# Last Week's Session

- 
- Possible Text Structures
  - Writing Strategies
  - Individual Conferences
  - Group Conferences

# Today's Session



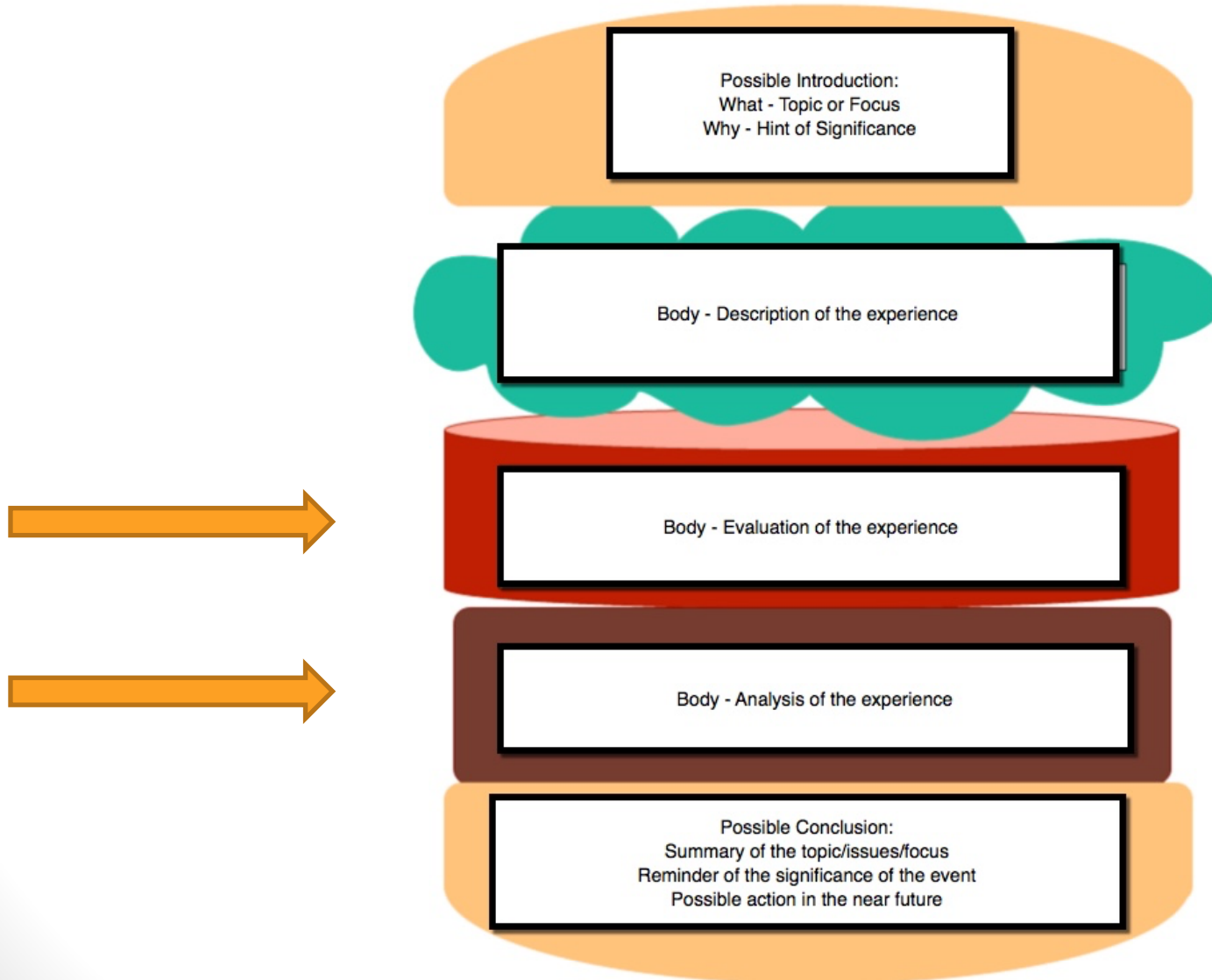
Outlining Tips

Drafting & Revising Tips

Individual Conferences

Group Conferences

# Possible Structure

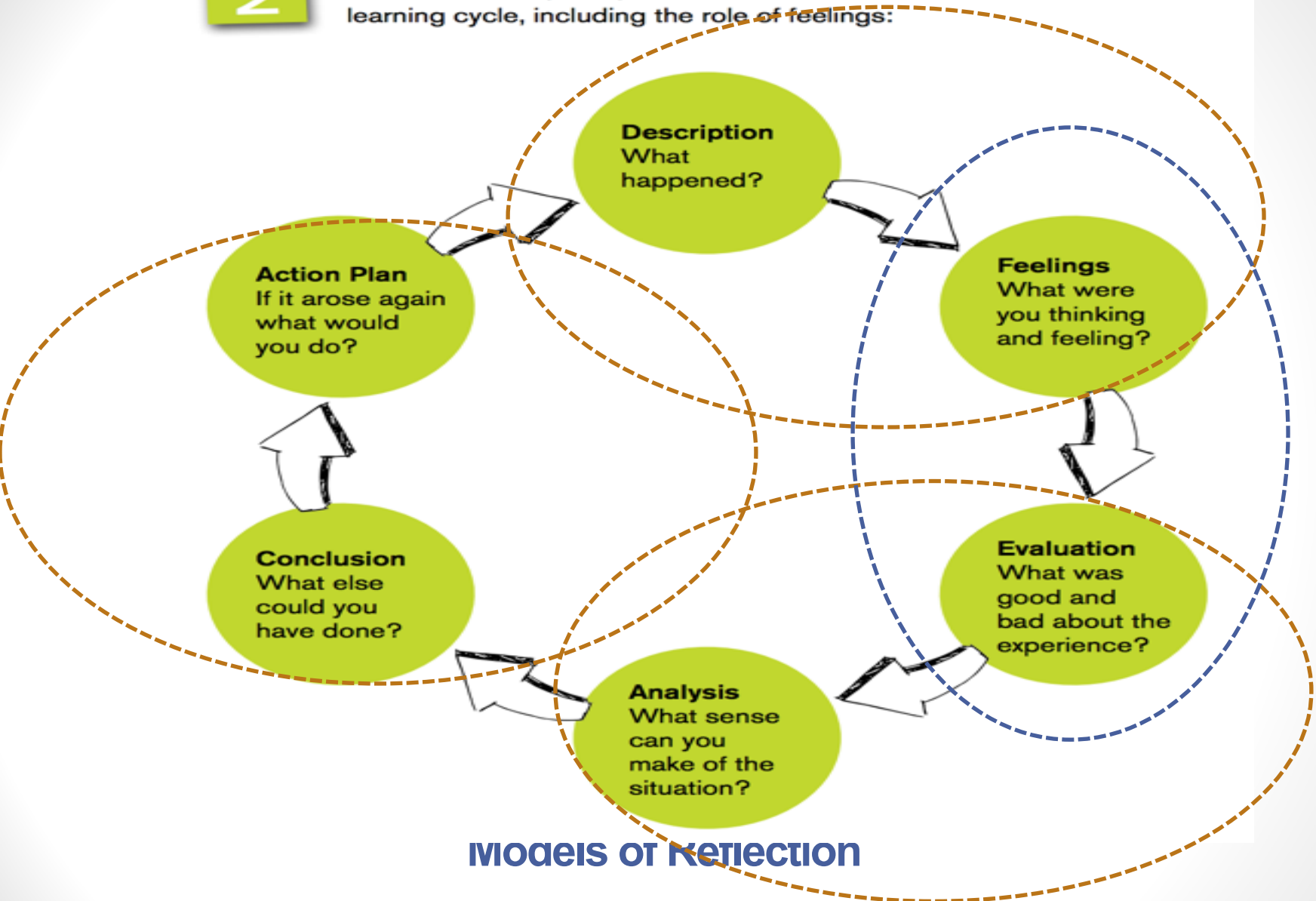




# 2

## Gibbs' Reflective Cycle

Graham Gibbs (1988) created a reflective learning cycle, including the role of feelings:



## Models of Reflection

# Outlining Tips

- Choose an activity or event – bullet
- Focus on the meat – core of the essay
- Modify the intro and conclusion at the end.

# 3 Simple Steps

## What?

Description & Feelings

- ... is the purpose of returning to this situation?
- ...happened
- ...did I see/feel/think/do?
- ...was my reaction?

# 3 Simple Steps

So what?  
(evaluation/analysis)

- ...were your feelings at that time?
- ...are your feelings/perspective now? Any differences? Why?
- ...were the effects of what you did/did not do?
- ...are some “positives” that emerged from the situation/experience?

# 3 Simple Steps

## Now what? (conclusion/action plan)

- ...are the implications for you?
- ...needs to happen to alter the situation?
- ...happens if you decide not to alter anything?
- ...are you going to do about the situation?
- ...might you do differently if faced with a similar situation?

# Sample Outline 1

What ?	So What?	Now What?
Specific event in Math Counts	Humbled me Collaboration	Seeing others' skills/gifts

# Sample Outline 2 – Job Experience

The job that I had this past summer expanded my level of maturity and provided me with exposure to a world that I had not previously experienced. It involved a combination of a job as doorman and a custodial worker in a New York apartment building. This job allowed me to break out of my shell and see the spectrum of the world as a whole. I have learned balance and adaptability. And I can empathize with the hard-working people of the so-called working class for some of them are now my friends.

# Off to a Good Start – Revising for Specifics

I am president of the Book Worms, a school club that does volunteer work for the town library. Each month I attend meetings with the library staff and schedule slots and assignments for other club members; I also work at the reference desk.



# Off to a Better Start – Revising for Specifics

As president of my school's Book Worms club, I attend a monthly 2-hour planning meeting at the town library, assign afternoons/evenings to 11 volunteers, and on Tuesday from 7-9pm shelve, scan, answer questions and reboot computers.

# Deeper rather than wider

- 1<sup>st</sup> draft

Three delicious meals a day, and a beautiful house to live in. It amazes me how much I take for granted. I never thought of how other people around the world were living, until I visited the home country of my parents, Bangladesh, in 2012 for the first time. To this day, I can still remember how people were starving for food and freezing on the streets. The visit was an experience of a lifetime, and it changed my life forever. My visit to Bangladesh was intertwined with another first experience as well. I had never experienced a death in my family. My uncle, whom I was very close to, passed away that year, and he had asked to be buried back home. It was for this reason that my family had traveled to Bangladesh in the first place. I was hit with two emotional milestones at one: the death of my uncle and the experience of seeing a kind of life I had never witnessed before.

# Deeper rather than wider

- 2<sup>nd</sup> draft/1<sup>st</sup> revision

I never thought of how other people around the world were living until I visited the home country of my parents, Bangladesh , in 2012 for the first time. To this day, I can still remember how people were starving for food and freezing in the streets. My visit to Bangladesh was intertwined with another first experience as well: a death in my family. My uncle, whom I was very close to, passed away that year, and he had asked to be buried back home. It was for this reasons that my family had traveled to Bangladesh in the first place. I was hit with two emotional milestones at once: the death of my uncle and the experience of seeing a kind of life I had never witnessed before.

# Deeper rather than wider

- 3rd draft/2nd revision

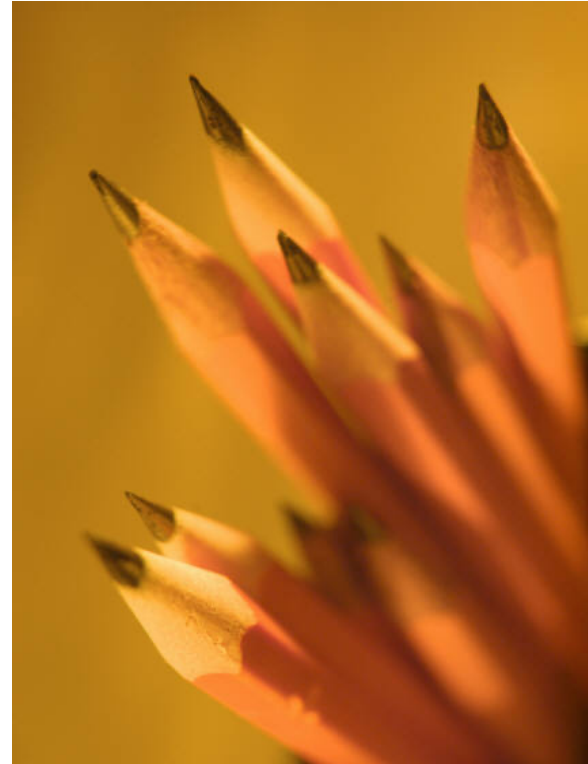
In 2012, for the first time, I visited the home country of my parents, Bangladesh, to attend the funeral of my uncle who had asked to be buried back home. I experienced there both a death and a life I had never witnessed before...

Think about it...

What are some ways you can go deeper rather than wider?



# Let's look at some essay examples



# Overcoming an obstacle -MIT

Having an abusive father has caused challenges early in my life emotionally and financially. When my mother, my brother, and I escaped from the Philippines and settled in an apartment in the United States, we had little money, had to sleep for a few days without beds, and lived for a few months without substantial furniture. I remember scouring through a nearby dumpster to pick up couches. Furthermore, my family feared that my father would find us and kidnap me and my brother or otherwise do something much worse.

I had learned to cope emotionally by attending counseling in school and outside of school. Through counseling, I learned to deal with the stresses of life through creative means. I took an interest in creating things and exploring my imagination. Although I didn't have many toys, I often played outside with my friends and tried to create my own toys out of trash I found scattered throughout the neighborhood. My friends and I would construct a snow sled out of a trashcan lid and a string, attempt to make a bike out of a pipe and a single wheel, and try to build carnival games out of buckets and a series of paper tubes.

When I eventually no longer needed counseling and things started looking better financially as well, I found that my desire to create still remained. As my life progressed I found myself creating media through the computer such as computer graphics, video animations, web designing, and game creating. Eventually, my desire to create objects led me to a passion in computer programming. Although people may define growing up without a father figure as a bad thing, it helped foster my creativity and helped develop the passions that I have today.

Some students have a background, identity, interest or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Determined as ever, I led my parents though the train station in the direction indicated by the lad at the ticket counter. My nine-year old legs struggled to keep as we crossed the tracks and headed down a dreary hallway to a door marked “vedlikehold.” I hoped that meant “lost and found” in Norwegian.

This was the moment of truth. We had searched everywhere. This was our last stop. As the door swung open, my eyes tried to focus through my last few tears and the cigarette smoke that hung heavy in the room. I looked past the chain-smoking attendants to a wall of dusty shelves stacked with forgotten umbrellas, cell p hones, and briefcases. There he was, in all his purple and green glory, staring back at me with his black button eyes.

It was as though the ceiling bulb was a spotlight shing on my Barney the Dinosaur and the railway station’s public address system was broadcasting Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus.” This may seem like a hyperbole, but to an ecstatic little girl suddenly reunited with the best friend she thought was lost forever, it seemed like a miracle.

Why write about a lost stuffed animal, an embarrassing one at that, in a college essay? I think my ongoing relationship with Barney reflects much about who I am and who I want to become. For almost as long as I have loved Barney, I have wanted to care for children ‘when I grow up.’ Admittedly, my interests have evolved over time from a cast technician (after a broken arm). to a pediatric nurse (after an operation an several hospitalizations), to my determination to become a pediatrician – one who will never lose touch with a child’s perspective on the world.



Some students have a background, identity, interest or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

My work in Tanzania this past summer reinforced the need for adults who care for children to think like kids. The lead doctor on our medical outreach project, a stern man who had clearly lost his childhood innocence, failed to adequately explain the difference between the tubes of toothpaste and tubes of anti-fungal cream we were distributing to children in a remote Maasai village. I watched with horror as the kids enthusiastically squeezed the anti-fungal cream onto their brand new toothbrushes. Struggling to overcome the language barrier, I called upon years of expert charades-playing as I tried to pantomime the proper use of each medicine. This experience made it very clear to me that in order to truly help children, it is often necessary to think like a child. I hope to never lose this skill.

I am no longer that elated nine-year old at the Bergen train station clutching Barney with glee, but Barney will be coming to college with me. While I am eager for the intellectual and emotional challenges of college, I like the idea that Barney will be there to ground me in the security of my childhood. I hope to grow into an adult who will never lose her link with that past, who will one day help provide that sense of security to her patients, especially to those children who might not have parents willing or able to tromp through a remote train station in a faraway land in search of a lost, dearly-loved stuffed animal.

# It's your turn! Let's practice...

