

Student Exemplar: Danica's 4.1 Improving Your Writing Style – First Draft



How does the film maker use crisis/crises to reveal a character's true nature?

We all respond to crises in different ways. Some people withdraw from those around them and become introverted, handling the crisis on their own. Others may become dramatic and loud, complaining of how hard life is and how they always get the short end of the stick. And others take it in stride, using the crisis as a way to grow and strengthen themselves. In the film Shawshank Redemption, directed by Frank Darabont, the characters of Andy and Red respond to crises in different ways, revealing their true character.

Andy, a young hot-shot banker, is found guilty of murdering his wife and her lover and is sentenced to life in prison. At first, Andy doesn't show much emotion about this: he is quiet and doesn't really talk to anyone and tries to stay out of the way of The Sisters, this gang of prisoners who beat him up and rape him over and over. When it seems that Andy is going to break from the abuse, he is offered the chance to do a job outside of the prison. He sees this as his chance to change his lot in life, and gains the respect of the guards and the prisoners alike when he helps a guard out with some money problems. Andy's endurance of being raped continually shows his strength. It is not until the end of the film when Andy escapes that we learn of his true determination: he spent 20 years in prison slowly tunneling his way out. The crisis of being in prison seemed to leave him unaffected, but at the end we see that his knowledge of his own innocence made him determined to escape and live the life he knew he deserved.

Red is a prisoner of Shawshank, as well. Red has been in prison for most of his life, and when Andy arrived, Red had been there for 40 years and he doesn't know any other life, and whenever he comes up for parole, that is a crisis for him because he is scared of life outside of prison and doesn't know what it holds for him, so he always says what he knows will keep him in prison - that is his rehabilitated and ready to leave. That he knows what he did was wrong and he hopes that people can forgive him. Andy's friendship changes Red. He sees how Andy is quietly determined and how he doesn't let anyone walk over him. He sees Andy's hope. At the end of the film, Red finally reveals his true self when he talks to the parole board. He is honest and carefree in his response, knowing that the board will hear what they want. He is surprised when they let him go. Once out in the real world, Red becomes scared again, and almost goes back to his old ways but he remembers the hope that Andy had, and that renews his spirit - he finds strength in himself to continue on and earn money so that he can one day join Andy in Mexico.

The biggest crisis I've ever faced is when my parents told me we were moving to Japan. I was mad at them for making such a big decision without talking to me first. I was going to have to leave my friends, my family, everything that was familiar to me. My response was to be angry and this kept me from realizing that I was on the adventure of my life! After being in Japan for a while, I realized that my parents had made the decision, not only for me, but for themselves, too. It was a great opportunity for my dad at his job, and although I missed my friends, I have made new friends, here. This crisis has made me more open to new things and shown me my adventurous side!

Andy and Red were two prisoners who had been sentenced to life in prison. Their response to this crisis eventually led to them getting out of prison and living the life they'd always wanted. How we respond to crisis reveals our true character, and we all respond differently to crisis.

Student Exemplar: Danica's 4.1 Improving Your Writing Style – Second Draft



How does the film maker use crisis/crises to reveal a character's true nature ?

We all respond to crises in different ways. Some people withdraw from those around them and become introverted, handling the crisis on their own. Others may become dramatic and loud, complaining of how hard life is and how they always get the short end of the stick. And others take it in stride, using the crisis as a way to grow and strengthen themselves. In the film Shawshank Redemption directed by Frank Darabont, the characters of Andy and Red respond to crises in different ways, revealing their true character.

Andy, a young, hot-shot banker, is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover and is sentenced to serve two life sentences back to back. When he first arrives in Shawshank, Andy is quiet and keeps to himself. The Sisters, a gang within the prison, interpret this as weakness and they take every opportunity to beat Andy up and rape him. Andy shows his strength by continually enduring rape and when it seems that Andy is going to break from the abuse, he is offered the chance to do a job outside of the prison. He sees this as his chance to change his lot in life, and gains the respect of the guards and the prisoners alike when he helps a guard out with some money problems. It is not until the end of the film when Andy escapes that we learn of his true determination: he spent 20 years in prison slowly tunneling his way out. The crisis of being in prison seemed to leave him unaffected, but at the end we see that his knowledge of his own innocence made him determined to escape and live the life he knew he deserved.

Red is a prisoner of Shawshank, as well. When Andy arrives at Shawshank, Red has been there for 20 years already and has become quite adapted to life in prison. As such, whenever he is in front of the parole board, he always says what he knows will keep him there: that he is a changed man, that what he did was wrong and that he hopes to be forgiven. For Red, being released from prison would be a crisis and he reacts with fear because he knows no other life than the one he lives. At the end of the film, Red finally reveals his true self when he talks to the parole board. He is honest and carefree in his response, because he learned from Andy to have hope and to believe in himself. Once out in the real world, the old, fearful Red returns momentarily. But, he remembers how Andy wouldn't let the prison take his hope, and that renews his spirit. Red finds the strength in himself to move forward and earn money so that he can one day join Andy in Mexico.

The biggest crisis I've ever faced is when my parents told me we were moving to Japan. I was furious with them for making such a big decision without discussing it with me first. I resented them for forcing me to leave my friends, my family, everything that was familiar to me. The first few months there, I refused to leave our apartment. My anger caused a rift in my relationship with my parents, and I was either always on the verge of tears or sleeping all the time. I had become someone I didn't like, and I was losing myself. Over time, I realized that we weren't going back, and I needed to make the best of the situation. After being in Japan for a few months, I realized that my parents had made the decision, not only for me, but for themselves, too. It was a great opportunity for my dad at his job, and although I missed my friends, I have made new friends here. This crisis has made me more open to new things and shown me my adventurous side!







Andy and Red were two prisoners who had been sentenced to life in prison. Their response to this crisis eventually led to them getting out of prison and living the life they'd always wanted. Whether we withdraw, explode, or take it in stride, how we respond to crisis reveals our true character.

Student Exemplar: Danica's 4.1 Improving Your Writing Style – Charted Changes

Sentence Fluency		Diction		Voice	
Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At first, Andy doesn't show much emotion about this: he is quiet and doesn't really talk to anyone and tries to stay out of the way of the Sisters, this gang of prisoners who beat him up and rape him over and over. Red has been in prison for most of his life, and when Andy arrived, Red had been there for 20 years and he doesn't know any other life, and whenever he comes up for parole, that is a crisis for him because he is scared of life outside of prison and doesn't know what it holds for him, so he always says what he knows will keep him in prison – that is his rehabilitated and ready to leave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When he first arrives in Shawshank, Andy is quiet and keeps to himself. The Sisters, a gang within the prison, interpret this as weakness and they take every opportunity to beat Andy up and rape him. When Andy arrives at Shawshank, Red has been there for 20 years already and has become quite adapted to life in prison. As such, whenever he is in front of the parole board, he always says what he knows will keep him there: that he is a changed man, that what he did was wrong and that he hopes to be forgiven. For Red, being released from prison would be a crisis and he reacts with fear because he knows no other life than the one he lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy, a young hot-shot banker, is found guilty of murdering his wife and her lover and is sentenced to life in prison. Andy's endurance of being raped continually shows his strength. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy, a young, hot-shot banker, is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover and is sentenced to serve two life sentences back to back. Andy shows his strength by continually enduring rape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biggest crisis I've ever faced is when my parents told me we were moving to Japan. I was mad at them for making such a big decision without talking to me first. I was going to have to leave my friends, my family, everything that was familiar to me. My response was to be angry and this kept me from realizing that I was on the adventure of my life! After being in Japan for a while, I realized that my parents had made the decision, not only for me, but for themselves, too. It was a great opportunity for my dad at his job, and although I missed my friends, I have made new friends, here. This crisis has made me more open to new things and shown me my adventurous side! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biggest crisis I've ever faced is when my parents told me we were moving to Japan. I was furious with them for making such a big decision without discussing it with me first. I resented them for forcing me to leave my friends, my family, everything that was familiar to me. The first few months there, I refused to leave our apartment. My anger caused a rift in my relationship with my parents, and I was either always on the verge of tears or sleeping all the time. I had become someone I didn't like, and I was losing myself. Over time, I realized that we weren't going back, and I needed to make the best of the situation. After being in Japan for a few months, I realized that my parents had made the decision, not only for me, but for themselves, too. It was a great opportunity for my dad at his job, and although I missed my friends, I have made new friends here. This crisis has made me more open to new things and shown me my adventurous side!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That he knows what he did was wrong and he hopes that people can forgive him. Andy's friendship changes Red. He sees how Andy is quietly determined and how he doesn't let anyone walk over him. He sees Andy's hope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the film, Red finally reveals his true self when he talks to the parole board. He is honest and carefree in his response, because he learned from Andy to have hope and to believe in himself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once out in the real world, Red becomes scared again, and almost goes back to his old ways but he remembers the hope that Andy had, and that renews his spirit – he finds strength in himself to continue on and earn money so that he can one day join Andy in Mexico. • I was mad at them for making such a big decision without talking to me first. • How we respond to crisis reveals our true character, and we all respond differently to crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once out in the real world, the old, fearful Red returns momentarily. But, he remembers how Andy wouldn't let the prison take his hope, and that renews his spirit. Red finds the strength in himself to move forward and earn money so that he can one day join Andy in Mexico. • I was furious with them for making such a big decision without discussing it with me first. I resented them for forcing me to leave my friends, my family, everything that was familiar to me. • Whether we withdraw, explode, or take it in stride, how we respond to crisis reveals our true character. 		
---	--	--	--	--	--

4.1 Improving Your Writing Style

Value	Identification of Problem Areas	Suggested Changes
 Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your identification of key grammatical elements is <i>perceptive</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Your synopsis of your suggested changes is <i>insightful</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your suggested choices are <i>precise and effective</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your focus on this workbook's Writer's Toolbox is <i>sustained</i>
 Proficient	<input type="checkbox"/> Your identification of key grammatical elements is <i>thoughtful</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Your synopsis of your suggested changes is <i>well-considered</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Your suggested choices are <i>specific</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Your focus on this workbook's Writer's Toolbox is <i>coherently sustained</i>
 Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Your identification of key grammatical elements is appropriate, but at times <i>may be misplaced</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Your synopsis of your suggested changes is <i>straightforward</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Your suggested choices are <i>adequate</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Your focus on this workbook's Writer's Toolbox is <i>clear and maintained generally, but may falter on occasion</i>
 Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> Your identification of key grammatical elements is <i>unrelated</i> to the assignment instructions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your synopsis of your suggested changes is <i>limited or not included</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Your suggested choices are <i>frequently inappropriate and/or imprecise</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Your focus on this workbook's Writer's Toolbox is <i>unclear and/or ineffective</i>
 Resubmission Needed	Your attempt to respond is <i>insufficient</i> . You need to contact your teacher to discuss your work and your resubmission.	
TOTAL: 17/20 = 85%	7/10	10/10
 Assessment	<p>Areas of strength: A detailed exploration of your suggested changes to improve your sentence fluency, voice, and diction, Danica. The colour-coding was a helpful formatting choice for differentiating between these techniques</p> <p>Might I suggest: A reminder that a written synopsis of how your revisions improved your overall writing was to be included. Be sure that you are reading assignment instructions carefully to include all components.</p>	