

Hassan's 6.5 Personal Response (Rough Draft)

Not knowing who you are can create a lot of different issues about a person. Using my personal experiences and the graphic novel American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang I will talk about these issues not knowing who you are can create.

One issue not knowing who you are can cause, is problems with relationships. I had a friend who felt like she wasn't getting enough attention from her friends or other people, so she decided to be Goth. When she started doing this, she got accepted into the Goth crowd at school. Some of the kids in this group skipped school and did drugs, and we all knew it. Her parents worried about her because she started hanging around them. She started skipping school and seemed really angry about everything. This made a lot of arguments with her parents, and with her old friends. She still wanted to be friends with us, but we were uncomfortable around them, so it created a lot of tension.

Another issue not knowing who you are is personal problems. In the graphic novel, American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang, the main character Jin becomes dishonest because he is so insecure. When he first meets Wei Chen, a new student, he lies to Wei Chen and says he has lots of friends so Wei Chen will stop trying to be his friend. If Jin wasn't so insecure about being Chinese, he wouldn't have tried to push Wei Chen away, and he wouldn't dream of being "Danny". Another personal problem that happens when you are insecure is that you isolate yourself. Jin pushes away his friends and family, and just wants to look "normal", or "all American" like Danny. Jin sees his own identity negatively as "Cousin Chinkee". He doesn't understand that Chinkee is made of all negative stereotypes, and have nothing to do with being Chinese. He only sees that "it gets so bad by the end of the school year that I have to switch schools". (p. 127). Being uncomfortable with his identity causes Jin to have low self-esteem and prevents personal growth for him.

You can't change who you are. Jin changes his hair and gets a permanent, and the Monkey King starts wearing shoes and makes himself taller because they think this will make them more normal. They think they are happier, but these changes cause problems. The Monkey king's refusal to accept and be himself gets him trapped under a mountain of rocks for hundreds of years. All he had to do to free himself was return to being a monkey. When Jin is little, an herbalist says, "it's easy to become anything you wish...so long as you're willing to forfeit your soul". (p. 29). Jin is stuck on being able to transform like his toys though, and doesn't get that he is just hiding himself and causing himself problems by trying to look like a white boy. The best evidence of why it doesn't work to not be yourself is Jin's friendship with Wei Chen. Wei Chen is a dedicated and great friend to Jin that Jin can be himself around. He doesn't realize how valuable Wei Chen's friendship is until he almost loses his friendship at the end by trying to be someone else. My friend who became Goth finally realized that she didn't like the attention she was getting, and that the attention she got from her "friends" in that crowd had nothing to do with who she was, and more what she looked like or acted like. No matter how much she tried to be like them, in the end she realized that she wasn't being true to herself, and that it was making her unahpeyy.

In our life, we need positive relationships in life to grow and stay healthy and need a healthy positive outlook. We need to know ourselves and like what we no. We can't deny it or pretend to be people we're not, or bad things will happen. There is a lot of reward to be happy with ourselves.

Hassan's Personal Response Editing Checklist

Use this checklist as you proofread and edit your written work. Underline, edit, and highlight sections in your rough draft as directed to ensure work has been checked carefully. Put a checkmark in the box when you complete the task.

- ☒ **I read every sentence to ensure it is complete.** Highlight sentences you revised. If you have no corrections, re-word one sentence to make it more effective. Highlight it.
- ☒ **I checked my sentences for any awkward wording or phrasing.** Highlight sentences you revised or re-word a sentence to make it flow more smoothly. Highlight it.
- ☒ **I used transitional words to make connections in some of my sentences.** Highlight or **add** at least two transitional words such as *however, because, even though, also, as well as, besides, in addition, as a result, especially, except*.
- ☒ **I included a thesis statement or controlling idea in my introductory paragraph.** Highlight your thesis statement or controlling idea, or **add** one if it is missing.
- ☒ **I began each paragraph with a topic sentence that explains one part of my thesis statement.** Underline your guiding idea in each paragraph.
- ☒ **I included specific evidence in each paragraph to support and explain my topic sentence.** Highlight at least one piece of evidence that supports your topic sentence either from the text you discussed or your personal experience.
- ☒ **I checked my spelling, and I used a dictionary or second party to confirm difficult words.** Highlight any words you corrected.
- ☒ **I organized my paragraphs logically** (intro sentence → idea → discussion and examples → concluding sentence). Draw a box around one particularly well-organized paragraph.
- ☒ **I organized my concluding paragraph by summarizing main ideas and refocusing on my thesis or controlling idea.** I have left the reader thinking about what I have said and how it applies to the world around us.
- ☒ **I provided a title for my personal response essay.**
- ☒ **I underlined or italicized any references to the novel or graphic novel** (such as Of Mice and Men; *Forbidden City*) and I identified page numbers where appropriate. Highlight one instance in your essay.

Title: Be Yourself or Be in Trouble

problems for people.
 Not knowing who you are can create a lot of different issues about a person. Using
American Born Chinese
 my personal experiences and the graphic novel *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen
the issues created from not knowing who you are.
 Yang I will talk about these issues not knowing who you are can create.

One issue not knowing who you are can cause, is problems with relationships. I
 had a friend who felt like she wasn't getting enough attention from her friends
 or other people, so she decided to be Goth. When she started doing this she got
were okay but some
 accepted into the Goth crowd at school. Some of the kids in this group skipped
 school and did drugs, and we all knew it. Her parents worried about her because she
 started hanging around them. She started skipping school and seemed really angry
caused a lot of arguments
 about everything. This made a lot of arguments with her parents, and with her old
 friends. She still wanted to be friends with us, but we were uncomfortable around
her Goth friends
 them, so it created a lot of tension.

Another issue that not knowing who you are can cause is personal problems.

Another issue not knowing who you are is personal problems. In the graphic novel,
American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang, the main character Jin becomes
 dishonest because he is so insecure. When he first meets Wei Chen, he lies to Wei
 Chen and says he has lots of friends so Wei Chen will stop trying to be his friend.
Add: Jin doesn't want to be friends with other Asian people because he is already treated differently.
 If Jin wasn't so insecure about being Chinese, he wouldn't have tried to push Wei
Add: , an "all American" boy.
 Chen away, and he wouldn't dream of being "Danny". Another personal problem that
yourself
 happens when you are insecure is that you isolate yourself. Jin pushes away his
 friends and family, and just wants to look "normal" like Danny. Jin sees his own
 identity as bad, and thinks people see him as "Cousin Chinkee". He doesn't get that
has
 Chinkee is imaginary, made up of negative stereotypes, and have nothing to do with
 being Chinese. He only sees that "it gets so bad by the end of the school year that
p. 127
 I have to switch schools". (127). Being uncomfortable with his identity causes Jin
 to have low self-esteem and prevents personal growth for him.

Add: Although

You really can't change who you are. Jin curls his straight hair, and the Monkey King starts wearing shoes ^{to make} and makes himself taller because they think this will make them more normal. They think they are happier, but these changes cause problems. The Monkey King ^{The Monkey King's choice not to be himself} not accepting himself gets him trapped under a mountain of rocks for hundreds of years. All he had to do to free himself was return to being a monkey. When Jin is little, an herbalist says, "it's easy to become anything you wish...so long as you're willing to forfeit your soul". ^{p. 29} (p.29). Jin is stuck on being able to transform like his toys ^{though, and} thoughand doesn't get that he is just hiding himself and causing himself problems by trying to look like a white boy. ^{Especially good proof} The best proof of why it doesn't work to not be yourself is Jin's friendship with Wei Chen. Wei Chen ^{Jin} is a dedicated and great friend ~~to Jin~~ that Jin can be himself around. He doesn't see how valuable this friendship is until he almost loses his friendship at the end by trying to be someone else. ^{Similar to Jin, my friend the Goth} My friend who became Goth finally realized that she didn't like the attention she was getting, ^{. The} and that the attention she got from her "friends" in that crowd had nothing to do with who she was, and ^{Add: to do with} more what she looked like or acted like. No matter how much she tried to be like them, it was making her ^{unhappy,} unahpeyy. ^{Add: because she started seeing she wasn't being herself and was being a jerk.}

In our life, we need positive relationships ^{we need} in life to grow and stay healthy and need a healthy positive outlook. We need to know ourselves and like what we ^{know} no. We can't deny it or pretend to be people we're not, or bad things will happen. There is a lot of reward to ^{being} be happy with ourselves.

I didn't realize how helpful this checklist would be until I started using it to go through my work—It felt good to make these improvements. Hopefully I get a better mark because of the extra attention I gave my essay!



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Hassan's 6.5 Personal Response (Polished Copy)

Be Yourself or Be in Trouble
By Hassan

The thesis prompt asked if you agreed or disagreed with the following statement:

"Not understanding or knowing oneself can create issues."

In the future, use the wording from the prompt to help you write your thesis—there is less risk of writing something confusing.

Avoid use of "you" in an essay in which you explain your opinion of an issue. "You" is the second person point of view, used for instructions, such as how to change a tire. (First, you assemble necessary tools . . .)

Not knowing who **you** are can create problems **for people**. Using my personal experiences and the graphic novel *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang, I will talk about the issues created from not knowing who **you are**.

Here, you might consider writing another sentence as a way of transition to lead into your first body paragraph. This can help you avoid bulky sentences at the beginning of the next paragraph.

One issue not knowing who **you** are can cause, is problems with relationships. I had a friend who felt like she wasn't getting enough attention from her friends or other people, so she decided to be **Goth**. When she started doing this, she got accepted into the Goth crowd at school. Some of the kids in this group were okay, but some skipped school and did drugs, and we all knew it. Her parents worried about her because she started hanging around them. She started skipping school and seemed really angry about everything. This caused a lot of arguments with her parents and old friends. She still wanted to be friends with us, but we were uncomfortable around her Goth friends so it created a lot of tension.

Another issue not knowing who **you** are can cause, is **personal problems**. In the graphic novel, *American Born Chinese*, the main character Jin becomes dishonest because he is so insecure. When he first meets Wei Chen, he lies to Wei Chen and says he has lots of friends so Wei Chen will stop trying to be his friend. Jin doesn't want to be friends with other Asian people because he is already treated differently. If Jin wasn't so insecure about being Chinese, he wouldn't have tried to push Wei Chen away, and he wouldn't dream of being "Danny", an "all American" boy. Another personal problem that happens when you are insecure is that you isolate **yourself**. Jin pushes away his friends and family, and just wants to look "normal" like Danny. Jin sees his own identity as bad, and thinks people see him as "Cousin Chinkee". He doesn't get that Chinkee is imaginary, made up of negative stereotypes and has nothing to do with being Chinese. He only sees that "it gets so bad by the end of the school year that I have to switch schools" (p. 1278). Being uncomfortable with his identity causes Jin to have low self-esteem and prevents personal growth for him.

comma splice (A comma is unnecessary)

Do you have another anecdote or hook to lead into your thesis?

Why is this significant? Is it the subculture that is the problem or these specific kids? Can you explain more clearly what you mean?

Issues raised here can be considered "personal problems" and could tie in with your first paragraph (relationship problems). These two paragraphs need more organization to identify clearly the separate ideas—you may need to re-assess your thesis and think of a new idea.

Hassan's 6.5 Personal Response (Polished Copy continued)

This is an incomplete sentence. I wonder if you could join this with the next sentence to make your topic sentence. It may be an appropriate transition between your idea and your evidence.

This is funny, too, because Jin likes actual Transformer robots in the novel. Coincidence?

This was a good attempt to use a transitional phrase, but consider your word choice—how can you change some words to make this sentence more fluent? Now, this is a passive sentence, which means it could be much more direct if it was tweaked a bit. Think about what words need to be re-arranged or changed here. Will this transition work?

Even though you really can't change who you are. Jin curls his straight hair, and the Monkey King starts wearing shoes to make himself taller because they think this will make them more normal. They think they are happier, but these changes cause problems. The Monkey King's choice to not be himself gets him trapped under a mountain of rocks for hundreds of years. All he had to do to free himself was return to being a monkey. This is similar to when Jin is little, when a herbalist says, "it's easy to become anything you wish . . . so long as you're

willing to forfeit your soul" (p. 29). Jin is stuck on being able to **transform like his toys though**, and doesn't get that he is just hiding and causing himself problems by trying to look like a **white boy**. **Especially good proof of why** it doesn't work to not be yourself is Jin's friendship with Wei Chen. Wei Chen is a dedicated and great friend that Jin can be himself around. Jin doesn't see how valuable this friendship is until he almost loses his friendship at the end by trying to be someone **else**. **Just like Jin, my friend the Goth finally realized that she didn't like the attention she was getting. The attention she got from her "friends" in that crowd had nothing to do with who she was and more to do with what she looked or acted like. No matter how much she tried to be like them, it was making her unhappy because she started seeing she wasn't being herself and was being a jerk.**

In our life, we need positive relationships to grow and stay healthy. We need a healthy positive outlook. We need to know ourselves and like what we know. We can't deny it or pretend to be people we're not, or bad things will happen. There is a lot of reward to being happy with **ourselves**.

These are all very vague statements, and you still have to be specific in your conclusion. Were you in a hurry to finish? I suggest revisiting this conclusion to summarize your specific main ideas and to relate your thesis from what you have said to what it can relate to outside of your discussion. Remember that the conclusion completes the discussion and gives your reader something to ponder after reading. State something thought-provoking and memorable.

You have a lot of information in this paragraph. As a result, it is not as balanced as the other paragraphs to provide an idea, a couple of pieces of evidence, and explanation. Go through this paragraph again and decide on the two best pieces of evidence to support your main idea. Trim what you have here to be more concise.

Hassan's 6.5 Personal Response Assessment		
Value	Ideas	Impressions
 Excellent	☐ Your ideas are <i>insightful</i> and <i>complex</i> . ☐ You provide <i>precise, detailed</i> support to reinforce ideas.	☐ You <i>skilfully</i> develop a unifying effect . ☐ You use word choice, grammar, spelling, and punctuation <i>skillfully</i> and <i>fluently</i> .
 Proficient	☐ Your ideas are <i>thoughtful</i> and <i>clear</i> . ☐ You provide <i>relevant</i> support to reinforce ideas.	☐ You <i>capably</i> develop a unifying effect . ☐ You use word choice, grammar, spelling, and punctuation <i>confidently</i> and <i>effectively</i> .
 Satisfactory	☒ Your ideas are <i>appropriate</i> . ☒ You provide <i>straightforward</i> support to reinforce ideas.	☐ You <i>adequately</i> develop a unifying effect . ☒ You use word choice, grammar, spelling, and punctuation <i>adequately</i> .
 Limited	☐ Your ideas are <i>incomplete</i> or <i>undeveloped</i> . ☐ You provide <i>vague, limited, or repetitive</i> support that does not reinforce ideas.	☒ You <i>inadequately</i> develop a unifying effect . ☐ You use word choice, grammar, spelling, and punctuation <i>inaccurately</i> .
 Resubmission Needed	Your attempt to respond is <i>insufficient</i> . Contact your teacher to discuss suggestions for improvement and re-submission of your work.	
TOTAL: 13/25 = 52%	8/15	5/10
 Assessment	Areas of strength: Hassan, you have good ideas about the dangers of not knowing oneself—you made some especially profound comments about how “Danny” and “Chinke” related to Jin’s perceptions and feelings about himself. You are right; he does think that being “Danny” will be easier and that people see him like they see “Chinke” (although this is untrue). You had a lot of support for ideas, sometimes too much! You also did a great job of editing your work! Might I suggest . . . The organization of your response suffered in your first two body paragraphs. Ensure your three main ideas are defined clearly and well organized. Limit ideas to the “best of the best” in your planning, to help create balanced discussion and paragraphs. Having a very clear “route” for your discussion will simplify your task and will prevent the overlap of ideas you have in paragraph 1 and 2. Your conclusion was very generalized although you related it to the world around us. Revisit your “Introductions and Conclusions” tutorial for clarification.	