2010

Commentary on "From Geek to Chic in Hewlett Packard’s Advertising"

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Gary's thesis is very strong--it's insightful but, perhaps more importantly, it's an argumentative claim that he uses effectively to structure the rest of his essay. Perhaps due in part to the quality of his thesis, Gary's paper is extremely well organized. Each paragraph makes a separate, fully articulated point while also contributing nicely to his overall argument. Gary's language throughout the paper is clear, and his clever wording of several sentences really catches the reader's attention. In order to improve his paper, Gary and I discussed ways to strengthen his concluding sentences. Often Gary would end his paragraphs with sentences describing specific details; I encouraged him to add an additional sentence on these occasions in order to refer back to his topic sentences and to end the paragraphs with the "big idea," rather than on a minor note. Gary and I also worked on some minor grammatical points, such as ensuring that all of his referential pronouns were clear and that his phrases always modified the correct objects. Overall, Gary's paper was already very solid when he brought it to the Writing Center, and, thus, we could concentrate on the few areas that still had room for improvement.

The human concerns that inspired the founding of many religious traditions and still pervade them today create a multifaceted and strikingly diverse myriad of world faiths. Tracing these complex, rich religions to their barest foundations and considering the question of what unites them at the core is a daunting charge. This question is made slightly more manageable, however, and less overwhelming if it is pursued in conjunction with an examination of my own religious experiences. It is possible to gain deeper insight into some facets of the universal nature of religion by reflecting on my own religious journeys, a tenuous web of spiritual ups and downs that began with an inquisitive high school student seeking answers and seeking a place. By considering each step forward and tumble backwards on my spiritual path, I have crafted my own unique definition of the nature of religion. I was initially motivated to seek a religious venue for the purpose of effectively understanding my place in a high school community where I felt irreversibly lost. For this reason, my perception of religion is largely based on orienting myself in the world through the use of a spiritual model, the guidance of a moral compass, and the consensus of distinctions between the sacred and the secular.

As a high school sophomore, I found myself disheartened by and entrenched in the stereotypes imposed in what seemed like every aspect of my school community. Feeling almost paralyzed by the limitations of my label, my high school caste of the quiet, smart girl, I encountered the intensely human experience of seeking direction. Day after day, my mind teemed with an inexpressible number of questions that occupy the recesses of other wondering human brains as well: Why am I here? What am I meant to do? Why am I specifically the way I am? Why are we all here? For me and probably for many others, the list multiplies...