Providing Feedback and Grades to Second Language Learners: Supplement 5

Sample Draft before and after Language Use Feedback

As has been discussed in the main document, it is recommended to leave L2 writers some time to correct their language issues than grade and penalize these students on the first submission. Below we show you a student paper before and after language use feedback the writer received from his peers.

It is only one paragraph of the student’s writing. As you read, you will notice the language is clear but the tense is confusing due to the inconsistent use of verb forms. As has been discussed in the Supplement 2: The Error Type Table, verb form error is the type of errors that L2 writers may not be able to notice on their own, but they can probably correct these errors once the errors were pointed out by the reader. In the case of this particular paper, these errors were pointed out and graded by two other students in a peer review session. After the peer review session, the student corrected these errors and submitted a much clearer final version.

First Draft

I have been an obedient child in my family since I was born, and I have always listened to my parents’ advice whether they are wrong or right. Unlike other international students who have their own opinions and purposes to study abroad, like gaining unique experience in other countries’ language and cultures, I was forced to study abroad by my family from the very beginning. My father, who is an ambitious businessman, is not satisfied with his small business and longs for the international trade with business in western countries. He invested money in my study abroad in order to open a pathway for him to know about the “world outside of China.” Besides this big target, he also wants his son to get a successful higher education to achieve his failed dream (because he failed going to college with a low grade): going to college and getting a bachelor degree or above. With my father’s high expectations, I took my responsibility to study at University of Michigan.

Submitted Final Draft

I have been an obedient child in my family since I was born, and I have always listened to my parents’ advice whether they are wrong or right. Unlike other international students who have their own opinions and purposes to study abroad, like gaining unique experience in other countries’ language and cultures, I was forced to study abroad by my family from the very beginning. My father, an ambitious businessman, was not satisfied with his small business and longed for the international trade with business in western countries. He invested money in my study abroad in order to open a pathway for him to know about the “world outside of China.” Besides this big target, he also wanted his son to get a successful higher education to achieve his failed dream (because he failed going to college due to a low grade): going to college and getting a bachelor degree or above. With my father’s high expectations, I took my responsibility to study at the University of Michigan.