Creative Writing

Personal Essay

Second Critique

1. Does the essay have a catchy intro? Are you pulled into the story? Could anything be changed to make it grab the reader’s attention more? (Explain exactly what about the intro is good or bad, effective or ineffective.)
2. How is the conclusion? Does the story end at a good point or does it leave you hanging? Does it captivate your attention to the very end, or does it just fizzle out? Could any changes be made to make it better? What is the moral ending or great lesson that was learned? What about sharing the feelings of the author about the incident?
3. How does the story progress? Does it follow a logical order or does it jump around? Does the plot stick to one event/person or not? Are there any unclear points or areas that you do not understand how they fit in? (After you have read the story, do you understand all of it or are there parts that you need to figure out yet? Could there be anything added or taken away to make the story progress better?) Are transitions used?
4. What about supporting details? Are there examples and descriptions? Is there any place where more description could be added? (If you can’t picture exactly what the person is talking about, figure out what they can add to make it better.)
5. Is there any dialogue in the story? Does it make sense? Could anything be added or taken away? (Does it move the plot forward or does it slow the plot down? Do they get hung up on one conversation or is the general drift of what was said come out? )