Creative Writing

Personal Essay

Third Critique

Please write more than just a “yes” or “no” answer. Actually put some thought into what you say!

1. Has the writer worked on the use of transitional words and phrases? In other words, does the paper flow smoothly from one paragraph/point to the next or is it choppy and difficult to follow? (Does each paragraph sound like it was written separately and pasted together or do they really sound like the writer’s train of thought?)
2. Are the words vivid and precise? Does the writer make use of imagery to paint a picture? Could any other details be added? (Development is so important.)
3. What is the central idea/point of the essay? Do you think the writer is doing a good job of bringing that idea across? What about the tone of the essay? Is it appropriate for the subject material? For example, are they appropriately somber at a funeral and joyous at a new birth? If the tone does not fit or the main idea of the essay is lost, what can they do to fix it?
4. Mark any mechanical errors on the paper. (i.e. spelling, run-on sentences, fragment sentences, punctuation, etc.)
5. Is there a title yet? Does it fit with the story? If there is no title yet, can you suggest one that would be appropriate?