Elaborating and “Getting Specific” With Personal Experience

Today we’re going to do a little work to get at how you can be more specific when describing personal experiences. To do that, you will want to follow the steps below.

Step One
Look at your paper that Chris just returned and find a place where Chris asks you to elaborate, or a place where you think you could elaborate. If you were not here for the first day, choose one of the lines below to elaborate on.

- I fell in love with the campus.
- I learned so much.
- I want to be independent.
- I want to gain a good job.

Step Two
After you have found some place to elaborate on, make sure that you elaborate on your experience—using specific nouns, verbs, and adjectives to make your writing come to life. Have some fun with this, and make your writing as vivid as possible.

Step Three
Share your writing with a friend and maybe, if you are so inclined, read your piece aloud to the class.