Essay 2: Analyzing the Words & Images of *The Best We Could Do*

Revising & Editing Workshop
Engage Your Reader

**title**

1. Why is it important?
2. Include title of book or author **plus** your topic or theme.
3. Does your title connect to your hook, thesis, transitions, & closing line?

**hook**

1. Why is it important?
2. Does it connect with your reader?
4. **Try to rewrite it now.**
Engage Your Reader

thesis statement
1. includes the book title / author
2. needs to be specific
3. previews the points in the paper
4. can be 1-3 sentences

Highlight your thesis now.
Work on revising your thesis now.
Engage Your Reader

sample thesis

Thi Bui uses verbal and visual flashbacks in *The Best We Could Do* to show how past events and memories negatively affect the feelings, behavior, and relationships of people in the present.
Why do your topic sentences and transitions need to be very clear?
You must begin or end a supporting paragraph with your own sentences (not a quote).

ICE each quote / example
(in every supporting ¶)

Highlight all your quotes / examples.
What did you discover?
Support Your Thesis

Why do your examples and analysis need to be detailed?

How can you expand them?

Try to analyze more than you think you should.

Review one paragraph now.

I can also answer your questions.
Bui describes the difficulty of trying to get her mother to discuss the past, “Maybe Má felt judgment coming from me, or maybe she felt uncomfortable talking to our family about her former life” (Bui 136). There seems to be tension between Bui and her mother. At the bottom of this page, the tension and distance are illustrated by Bui sitting in the back seat of the car while her mother talks easily to her husband (Bui 136). The author looks sad and disconnected from her mother and husband as she huddles in the back.
A strong conclusion connects all the paragraphs.

The conclusion also restates the thesis (same ideas but with different words).

Connect your essay to larger questions about family, memory, history, etc.

Write a creative closing (connecting to hook, title, etc.).
1. Why is editing / proofreading so important?
2. Ask for help – from whom?
3. Edit carefully – how?
4. Check MLA format, including works cited page:

Works Cited

Read in Reverse
How do you do this? Why should you do this?
1. Read one paragraph in reverse (sentence by sentence).
2. What do you notice?
3. How is this different than typical editing?
Stand, Walk, Read

1. Stand up & go outside.

2. Walk around & read your draft out loud.

3. What did you notice by doing this?

4. How is this different than typical proofreading?