Writing Assignment 1: Coming up with a Theory of Your Own

**Revision Practice**

English III CP McCook

***\*Note: This sentence and paragraph are meant for a revision activity, so they should NOT serve as models for this paper (at least not until the revisions have been made).***

Directions: Read the following sample standards/criteria sentence from the introduction and body paragraph from a draft of Writing Assignment 1: Coming up with a Theory of Your Own.  Circle anything you see that needs revising.  We will discuss your suggestions as a class.

**Standards/criteria sentence from the introduction: (see corrected versions below)**

To make it on my list of greatest literary hits of all time, a book must have believable characters, keep me hooked during the entire story, and contain/show/teach empathy.

Slang/informal tone

1st person point of view

past tense verbs used to discuss literature

**Body paragraph on “believable characters”:**

~~I think~~ *Romeo and Juliet* is a ~~pretty awful~~ *poor piece of literature/atrocioius* play.  ~~Honestly, I think it sucks~~.  For one thing, the characters are ~~totally~~ *completely* unrealistic.  ~~I mean~~, ~~I’ve~~ *Everyone has* had crushes before, but who falls in love after one meeting and decides to get married?  ~~That’s just stupid~~.  In the famous balcony scene, Juliet called *calls* out to Romeo, “My bounty is as boundless as the sea / My love as deep; the more I give to thee / The more I have, for both are infinite” (Shakespeare 2.2.133-135).  I find it *is* hard to believe in characters whose love was “infinite” on the first night.  Juliet is not the only one given to melodrama, however.  In fact, Romeo is worse.  First, he *broods* ~~melancholy~~ about ~~some chick~~ *his previous love interest* named Rosaline and then completely forgets about her upon seeing Juliet, claiming he “ne’er saw true beauty till this night” (Shakespeare 1.5.51).  When he later finds out that he is banished from Verona for killing Tybalt, he ~~said~~ *says* ~~he’d~~ *he would* rather be dead because it means he could *cann*ot be with Juliet: “Ha, banishment!  Be merciful, say ‘death’ / For exile hath more terror in his look / Much more than death.  Do not say ‘banishment’” (Shakespeare 3.3.12-14).  ~~In my opinion~~, these characters are just too extreme and ridiculous to be considered part of great literature.

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**Revised Sentences:**

All Noun Phrases:

To be considered one of the greatest literary works of all time, a book must have believable characters, a compelling storyline that keeps readers hooked, and a focus on empathy.

All Verb Phrases:

Truly great literary works should present believable characters, keep readers engaged during the entire story, and teach lessons of empathy and understanding.