**Purpose:** Use this example assignment to explore important elements that make this an exemplary submission. Hover over the information symbol (i) or select the numbers within the text to read about what the student has done well in this assignment.

(i) Game Day

Ashford University
It was 6:30 AM my freshman year of High School. As I laid bed, the sun just beginning to seep through the closed blinds, I realized the day I had been waiting for all summer was here. Game day was here. I was the quarterback for my freshman football team and the butterflies in my stomach felt like a pack of monarch butterflies that can only be found in remote areas near the Amazon.

Like a young child on Christmas morning, I hardly needed my alarm clock that began to chirp. As I rolled over to turn off the alarm, I heard a familiar knock on the door. Most days, this knock was the first thing I heard in the morning. Not today. Not on game day.

“Son?” the voice said, “are you awake yet?”

“Yes, dad, I am, just getting up” I replied.

“Ok” he said. “I’m getting ready to head out for work and won’t see you before kickoff. Get dressed and come see me, I have something for you.”

“Ok!” I replied with excitement. “I’ll be right there!"

That morning must have set the record for any high school kid getting dressed for school. At my high school, it was tradition to wear jerseys on game day. I can still remember the fresh smell of a brand new football jersey, free of the impeding grass stains, blood, sweat and tears that would fill the jersey at season’s end. My jersey was neatly folded on top of my favorite pair of jeans, socks, underwear and shoes. I quickly dressed and hurried to the kitchen to catch my dad before he left for the day.

“Good morning son, how are you feeling? Get any sleep last night” he said while smiling.

“Yeah, I had a good night’s rest” I lied. He knew I was lying too, but no big deal.

“I have something for you” he said. He pulled out small bag and handed it too me.
As I opened the small bag with anticipation, I pulled out its content. It was small, white, Nike towel with Velcro designed to hang from my football belt. Stitched above the Nike symbol was the number 12. It was the number he wore as a high school quarterback and the number I had chose to carry on the family tradition. (5) [I will never always remember what he said as I hugged him and thanked him for the towel.]

(6) [“Son” he said, “I know your nervous. Today is a big day and something you have worked extremely hard for. A lot of people will go through life and never get to feel the feeling you have in your stomach right now. Those feelings you have are good; it means you are ready. If you weren’t nervous, you wouldn’t care. No matter how the game goes tonight, remember that I’ll always love you and support you. Nothing can happen in this game that would make me feel otherwise. Do the best you can, have fun and compete as hard as you can. If you do that, I can promise you good things will happen!”]

At that moment, those monarch butterflies flew away and the sense of relief I felt like the weight of 1000 pianos had been lifted off my shoulders.

“Thanks, Dad.” I said. “Thanks for the towel, I can’t wait to wear it, I wish we could play now!”

“Sounds great, son. I’ll see you tonight, go get em’!” he said.

As my older brother drove us to school that day, I felt like a king. It’s amazing how a person can go from feeling incredible nervousness and channel those emotions into confidence and readiness. My dad knew what I was feeling and how to fix it. (7) [I’m sure he had that towel for weeks and was dying to give it to me, but he understood the nerves on game day are like none other. I’m glad he waited; his timing, love and support were the greatest feeling I’ve ever known.]
Comments (color and number coded):
1. Since this is a rough draft, you will not have to worry too much about APA. However, you will need to have a properly formatted APA title page when you turn in your final draft. Return

2. The student met the minimum word count, made an attempt at a thesis, and wrote a coherent and comprehensible draft. As a result, the student received a good grade on this assignment. Return

3. Here the student introduces the topic for his personal essay and establishes the importance of his topic. Return

The topic is "game day" and the significance behind this personal narrative is that he is the quarterback for his freshman football team and they are playing their first game of the season.

In your own personal narrative, you must have an engaging introduction paragraph that interests the reader and states your thesis.

4. The student builds upon his thesis by showing the excitement and importance of game day and how awake and energetic he is. This rising action allows readers to follow the plot line and creates a sort of tension that makes us want to continue reading. Return

5. Here the student accidentally wrote "never" instead of "always". Proofreading is important, and is something that your instructor and the Ashford Writing Center will help you with! As with any rough draft, it is perfectly ok to have spelling and grammar errors. At this stage in the writing process, we want you to focus on getting your thoughts out on paper in the most organized way you can. It is after you receive feedback on your rough draft that you will go back and edit and revise your work. Return

6. As with any personal narrative, it is important to include any poignant dialogue. This brings the essay to life and also emphasizes important elements that support the thesis. Return

7. This is a great reminder of the significance of the towel that his father gave him. The student relates the importance of the towel and how it made him feel on his important game day.

However, one thing that the student needs to clarify in his thesis is that game day was not only
significant because of the emotional weight it carried, but because it was the day his father gave him something very meaningful.

Moving forward with the rough draft:

As this student revises his essay, he will need to strengthen his thesis to incorporate the importance of his father's gift and its relation to game day. He will also have to edit and revise for clarity and organization. Return