

Student #3: KB

Having respect for yourself is very important. The manner in which you carry yourself can mean a whole lot. The way you dress, act, and present yourself always determines your self respect. The respect that you give to yourself will also be giving back to you by the people around you.

*Although I specifically instructed students not to use second person pronouns in formal writing, KB used them excessively in this paragraph. Like many students, KB had difficulty using the generic he/she or herself/himself construction consistently in writing. Using second person is also a convenient way of not having to deal with subject verb agreement issues.*

*Early in the school year, I deal with this problem by almost always having students write in first person. Another technique is to teach them when writing in third person to try and use plural forms. Still another method is to have student re-write the passage substituting a specific person for the pronoun; then let them make the necessary adjustments in each sentence. In many cases, it is easier for students to write their rough drafts using the second person and then changing it when they prepare their final drafts.*