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Metacognitive Reflection

I carefully read the comments on my introduction. When I first wrote it, I was focusing on describing the women on reality television shows because I was thinking about how my professor stressed in class the importance of clearly summarizing the topic. I was trying to do that by being specific about the women's behaviors on television and using descriptive language. I also made sure the reader knew I was referencing reality television shows. On reflection, I can see how my reader would be confused because I didn't identify where these women were acting this way specifically—which specific shows or types of reality television. Women on *Bad Girls Club*, for example, are not presenting themselves in the same way as women on *Survivor*.

The most common editing suggestion in my feedback referenced passive voice. Honestly, I didn't really know what passive voice meant, but I talked to my professor during her office hours, and we worked through a couple of examples from my paper. Now that I'm revising my introduction, I can see how much difference it makes to write in active voice. It helps me maintain objectivity by clarifying who expects women to be reserved, for example. I sound less judgmental and more credible now in my paper.

My grade and my paper took a hit because I didn't have a thesis statement yet. Now that I've taken time to reflect, I feel like I just wasn't sure how to build an argument about this topic. I used one of the tools we've talked about in class—asking open-ended questions about why reality TV shows with rebellious women might be popular right now, and it really helped me. I also went to the Writing Center and talked through my answers to the questions. I feel good about the thesis I have now, and I identified some resources and strategies I will use in the future.