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English 101-05

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The Scrappy New Me: A Compare & Contrast Essay

It's 2:00 a.m., and I'm standing outside CJ's in Moscow holding a clump of my own golden hair. I am still in shock that so much has been yanked out as I explain to a police officer about the fight I have just endured. "I swear officer," I tell him. I never harassed her. She attacked me!" For some reason, he does not believe me. I can't help but wonder, "Is this really me? Have I become this person: a person who gets in fights at bars?" This is a drastic change from the timid, mind-my-own business attitude I took only a few short years ago. My name is Kelly, and apparently I'm a scrapper.

A few years ago Insecure Kelly was an impossibly shy girl who kept to herself. These days the best way to describe Mature Kelly is an outspoken ego-maniac. Insecure Kelly would have kept her mouth shut when some unpleasant girl in a bar yelled at her. Insecure Kelly would have run the other direction with her tail between her legs. Mature Ego-Maniacal Kelly, on the other hand, is a different story: "I SAID I wasn't looking at YOU!" Ego-Maniac Kelly screams at the girl who tries to start a fight with her and her friends. She used to be such a nice, repressed person. Now, she needs to learn when to keep her mouth shut.

Kelly's attitude is not the only thing that has changed in the last few years. Her idea of fashion has changed as well. Young Clueless Kelly was obsessed with labels: American Eagle, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Roxy—to name a few. Mature Fashionista

Kelly knows that being fashion savvy is not all about labels; it's about how you look and feel in the clothes you wear that really counts. Clueless Kelly tried to blend in with the crowd in the clothes that she wore: the less attention the better. Clueless Kelly would wear baggy t-shirts with jeans and ratty tennis shoes. Fashionista Kelly takes immense pride in the clothes she wears and is disappointed when her mustard yellow spiked heels don't get the notice they deserve.

Insecure Kelly was afraid to try new things or embark on new adventures. Young Kelly wanted someone else to help her decide what to do with her life so she wouldn't have to truly be responsible for her actions. Confident Adventurous Kelly has ambition and a strong desire to do new things. Adventurous Kelly moved to Boise by herself. Adventurous Kelly worked as a river guide. Adventurous Kelly forced herself to get back into school and use the obvious intelligence she has.

Throughout Kelly's whole life, she has had extra meat on her big bones. Insecure Kelly was ashamed of her figure and tried to hide it in baggy clothes. Insecure Kelly was so ashamed of the way she looked she wouldn't even bother getting ready in the morning. Confident Kelly, on the other hand, embraces her beautiful curvaceous figure and dresses it accordingly. Confident Kelly would die before she left the house in sweatpants. She would be mortified without make-up. Confident Kelly knows that no matter what size she happens to be that month, she is hot.

A few years ago Kelly was not registered to vote and wasn't the least bit educated about the state her nation. Uneducated Kelly felt like it didn't really matter since the issue didn't affect her directly. Wise Kelly understands that it does matter. Wise Kelly knows that the choices her leaders make today will affect her life tomorrow. Wise Kelly

realizes this is her country and it is important to get involved with what happens. Wise Kelly is registered to vote.

As she holds a tuft of her own hair in her hand, the new Kelly realizes that yes, this is the kind of person she has become: confident, intelligent, scrappy. A person who will not stop fighting against the things she thinks are wrong and will not apologize for standing up for herself when someone deliberately throws a drink on her.

“Officer,” I say, “You have to understand: I will not let her intimidate me no matter how much of my hair she pulls out.”