**Sample *Road* Essay Paragraph Edits**

**Edits:**

-Redundancy

-Subject at beginning of sentence (avoid unnecessary windups)

-Avoid prepositions (“of”=possessive; “by”=passive voice) and “shows”

-Fluidity (relationships between sentences v. clunky chunking analysis)

**Original:**

After their encounter with the cannibals, the man maintains the “facade” of control by turning to the map once again (McCarthy 106). Despite his “stud[y],” however, the map is in “pieces” and the man had “little notion of where they were,” both literally and figuratively (McCarthy 126). The “pieces” of the map reflect the man’s fragmented identity, having lost the lighter in the basement. The man then attempts to “take his bearings” in nature after “stud[y]” and the map fail him, but is unable to accomplish anything as assertive as “tak[ing]” anything “in the twilight” (McCarthy 126), without the fire to provide sight, and his status as one of the “good guys” (McCarthy 74) to provide identity. Though the man continues to “st[and] at a rise in the road” and feign moral superiority, the boy cares only for practicality, not morality (McCarthy 126). “Can we have a fire? The boy said (McCarthy 126).” “Can,” and not “should.” The boy lives in the reality of what is or isn’t physically possible, while the man maintains his moral self-deception.

**Edits:**

After encountering the cannibals, the man turns to the map once again to maintain the “facade” of control (McCarthy 106). Despite his “stud[y],” the map is in “pieces,” and the man has “little notion of where they were”--literally and figuratively— reflecting that his identity is also in “pieces” after losing the lighter (McCarthy 126). The man then attempts to “take his bearings” in nature after “stud[y]” and the map fail him, but is unable to accomplish anything as assertive as “tak[ing]” “in the twilight” (McCarthy 126) without the fire to provide sight and his “good guy[]” status to provide identity (McCarthy 74). Though the man continues to feign superiority, “st[anding] at a rise in the road,” the boy cares only for practicality, not morality (McCarthy 126). “Can we have a fire? The boy said (McCarthy 126).” “Can,” and not “should.” The boy cares about what is or isn’t physically possible; the man maintains his moral self-deception.

**Final:**

After encountering the cannibals, the man turns to the map once again to maintain the “facade” of control (McCarthy 106). Despite his “stud[y],” the map is in “pieces,” and the man has “little notion of where they were” —literally and figuratively—reflecting that his identity is also in “pieces” after losing the lighter (McCarthy 126). The man then attempts to “take his bearings” in nature after “stud[y]” and the map fail him, but is unable to accomplish anything as assertive as “tak[ing]” “in the twilight” (McCarthy 126) without the fire to provide sight and his “good guy[]” status to provide identity (McCarthy 74). Though the man continues to feign superiority, “st[anding] at a rise in the road,” the boy cares only for practicality, not morality (McCarthy 126). “Can we have a fire? The boy said (McCarthy 126).” “Can,” and not “should.” The boy cares about what is or isn’t physically possible; the man maintains his moral self-deception.

**Comparison:**

1. After their encounter with the cannibals, the man maintains the “facade” of control by turning to the map once again (McCarthy 106).
2. After encountering the cannibals, the man turns to the map once again to maintain the “facade” of control (McCarthy 106).
3. Despite his “stud[y],” however, the map is in “pieces” and the man had “little notion of where they were,” both literally and figuratively (McCarthy 126). The “pieces” of the map reflect the man’s fragmented identity, having lost the lighter in the basement.
4. Despite his “stud[y],” the map is in “pieces,” and the man has “little notion of where they were”—literally and figuratively—reflecting that his identity is also in “pieces” after losing the lighter (McCarthy 126).
5. The man then attempts to “take his bearings” in nature after “stud[y]” and the map fail him, but is unable to accomplish anything as assertive as “tak[ing]” anything “in the twilight” (McCarthy 126), without the fire to provide sight, and his status as one of the “good guys” (McCarthy 74) to provide identity.
6. The man then attempts to “take his bearings” in nature after “stud[y]” and the map fail him, but is unable to accomplish anything as assertive as “tak[ing]” “in the twilight” (McCarthy 126) without the fire to provide sight and his “good guy[]” status to provide identity (McCarthy 74).
7. Though the man continues to “st[and] at a rise in the road” and feign moral superiority, the boy cares only for practicality, not morality (McCarthy 126).
8. Though the man continues to feign superiority, “st[anding] at a rise in the road,” the boy cares only for practicality, not morality (McCarthy 126).

“Can we have a fire? The boy said (McCarthy 126).” “Can,” and not “should.”

1. The boy lives in the reality of what is or isn’t physically possible, while the man maintains his moral self-deception.
2. The boy cares about what is or isn’t physically possible; the man maintains his moral self-deception.