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September 28, 2015  
English 1011-D376  
- Final Draft

Beyond  
Narrative  
Essay

⊛ Please turn in  
your corrected Draft #1  
if your Draft #2 so  
I can compare & grade

Excellent  
Revision

A-

⊛ still  
just  
a few  
minor  
Grammatical  
conventions  
Edits

⊛ Should  
try to  
edit down  
to only  
2 pages  
⊛ Look at  
making your  
last topic  
sentence  
sign-post  
which  
subtopic  
it discusses

### The Judgement of the Blind

Maxwell Maltz once said, "self-image sets the boundaries of individual accomplishments." However, can one's own boundaries be viewed as an accomplishment in today's society? These boundaries based on my self image seemed to already exist. My traditional background, as well as the inspiration behind my decision to wear the scarf, created this ultimate struggle to fit in with society, which later became my biggest accomplishment.

My traditional background created this mind set for me as I was growing up, and that played a great part in my decision to wear the hijab. Hijab is the traditional term the Arab community uses when referring to the headpiece Muslim women wear. This is a veil that is wrapped around a woman's head covering her hair and chest. As a child the purpose of women covering up did not really make sense to me. It was just something that came naturally to me especially because my mother wore it as well. As I got older I was more aware of the things surrounding me, such as the way people think of or view others. I personally never found my mother to be any different, <sup>or any other covered up women</sup> or even any other covered up women, but it was the question of why others found them to be different that I felt needed to be resolved. The question was just so simple, but it took me years to realize that everybody is different. That lead me to question my own tradition and why is it that we seem to be different to others. Our self image is what created the line between ~~us and~~ <sup>and us</sup> society. The image of a women fully covered differentiated me from others, and that is what I later understood. The hijab is a symbol of modesty, respect, <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ control. It is the self image that represents the bigger meaning.

As I got the bigger meaning of the hijab, my understanding later became the reason for my inspiration. <sup>I</sup> <sup>in</sup> ~~It~~ was around middle school when my sister decided to officially put on the hijab for her first year of high school. Until I reached high school, the idea of doing what my sister did was always in my mind. She never really changed, or even allowed herself to change just because she changed her self image. As a matter of fact, she was more self aware, and to me she never changed. <sup>However, (so that you don't start a sentence with "But")</sup> she was still strong, happy, and unstoppable. ~~But~~ I never really understood the real struggle that came with it, which was fitting in.

Subtopic 3  
Fitting in a society that is focused on judging what makes each and everyone of us different is not easy. When I reached the first year of high school, it all began. I was ready to do what my sister did years ago, but I had to face it in a public school not a private one as my sister had done. My mood fit perfectly with the weather that first morning as I watched grey clouds fill the sky while the wind pushed through my windows and tried to tug away my blanket. I realized that my struggle to get out of bed was not the only thing that I had to overcome. I was not late that morning, but it seemed like every minute counted to get prepared. I slowly got out of bed thinking about all the possible situations that could happen such as that I could miss this day and just get one more day to my thoughts. I was just confused. I was so excited but really nervous about others' <sup>1</sup> judgments of me. I finally got ready and wrapped my hijab around my head tightly enough to cover my face, and long enough to cover my chest. That moment when I left the house I could feel the rain hit my face and smell a storm near, and I thought to myself, at least my hair is covered. So when I arrived at school I found there to be no one around, which built up my nerves even more. I later found out that the first day of school was the next day. I was so relieved that I did not have to face others' <sup>2</sup> behavior towards me.

⊛  
Beautiful Writing

However, that did not matter because I was to face strangers on my way back home. I decided to take the long walk back home and see myself how it actually feels to look different. As I was walking home I got many things including stares, smiles, and eye rolling. I mean it hadn't been that long ago that 9/11 had happened and society's mindset was too focused on terrorism and who and who not to blame. That day I achieved what I feel was an accomplishment, namely the ability was to understand the judgment of others, and not necessarily take it in.

My traditional background and inspiration behind my decision to wear the hijab gave me a better understanding of the ultimate struggle to fit in with society. Many different cultures make up a diverse society, but within this society some cultures stand out more than others, which creates a large gap. Overall, living in such a diverse society, we tend to turn a blind eye on our own differences and judge with what we see and fail to try to understand.

Still Subtopic (3)  
"Struggle to fit in with society"  
in the larger society  
This could be a sub-subtopic of your Subtopic  
"Facing Stares in the larger society"

Second Reading  
I'm not sure I understand exactly what you mean here -  
Do you mean that we turn a blind eye or what makes each of us unique inside?