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College Writing
Formal paper 1
2/23/23

Write about an incident in which you or someone you love experienced shame. Use the techniques of pacing, using vivid details, and making a point.

My cousin recently experienced shame. My dad's side of the family is Caribbean so they are very set on the idea of not having LGBTQ connections to the family. My cousin is a female who recently made the decision that she wanted to change genders. I personally don't agree with the methods of a man transforming into a woman or a woman transforming into a man. I was around when she first decided to change her sexuality, she confronted me that she liked women and women only. I was non-judgmental about this because she is still herself, someone we all love and adore. She progressively started to grow out of her feminine side, whether it be cutting her hair, changing her looks as in how she dresses, toning her body or getting haircuts. I was willing to accept these changes, although I'm one person I overlooked everything because I still and will always love her. But when I say this I mean her in her own body and mind. She was accepted by those around her who cared for her up until now. She came across the fact that she firmly wanted to fully transform into a man. This was unexpected amongst us all. I believe God put us on this earth as we are to continue being who we are. The process of converting your body into something

else, rather someone else is very gruesome, not only does it change your outer appearance but it changes your mindset as well. Though we all love and support her, it became hard for my grandmother to witness these changes, and I don't blame her because she raised my cousin, so it's as if she is not surrounded by that person she raised or she failed at raising her into loving herself. She told my cousin that if she was to follow through with the transition she would have to move out because she felt shameful as do the other people in the house. So my cousin decided to move out because she didn't feel welcomed and supported by those around her. It will be challenging to watch her convert into someone I believe she's not, but I'll always love my cousin no matter what, because her inside appearance will always stick with me.