“Farewell to Manzanar” by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston

How does the choice of details and the order and emphasis of the details help create both pathos and the main idea?

Today you will begin reading an excerpt from a memoir about living in a Japanese internment camp during World War II. The Japanese internment camps were created by the United States Government as a wartime protection against sabotage and espionage from Japanese citizens and United States citizens with Japanese heritage.

You will be examining the details which the authors chose to use in the memoir as well as the order in which the narrative is told. Both the selection of details and the order helps to create an emotional response in the audience and helps to develop the main idea.

To begin, write a brief narrative of you own. Tell the story of your morning. The final sentence must be “My English teacher told me to write about my day.”

Now, change the structure of your piece.

Begin with the most exciting part of your day (even if the most exciting part was the junk food you ate for “breakfast”). Flash back to you waking up. Move forward to your arrival at school. Make sure that your story still makes sense. End the piece the same way.

Add adjectives and adverbs to make the description pop!

Use parallel structure at least once. Use anaphora and/or repetition at least once.

Use the back of the paper for your revision.

Revised story:

Reflection questions:

Looking back at the first version to the second version, what were the impacts of the changes that were made?

* What details were emphasized?
* What details did you just leave out (probably going to the bathroom – no one wants to read about that!)

* Did the revisions add clarity or is the story more specific?
* Did the emotion of the narrative come out more afterward?

/20 points for following directions and completing assignment.