

FM REVIEW COMMENTS 2009-2012 30

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is a strongly split decision, and I can understand the perspective of both reviewers. I liked the piece especially as it is currently written (this was one we asked the author to revise and resubmit because the original version sounded too much like an opinion piece). It may be my own generational perspective that sides with reviewer 1. Electronics are here to stay, but to me the essay simply highlights a potential downside of our brave new world. I don't think the function of narrative essays is to "provide solutions," as reviewer #2 desires, so I don't feel this is a decisive argument against acceptance. There is certainly a quality of nostalgia for the good old days in the essay, so perhaps it is a bit Luddite, but it does raise a valuable issue in my mind. The very fact that two reviewers could have such diametrically opposed reactions makes me think it could stimulate interesting discussion... in the preceptor room!

My main concern about the submission is that it still falls perilously close to an opinion piece. I feel it ends up on the right side of that line (but just barely), and have made specific suggestions to the author (below) that should "enliven" the episode and give it more of a feeling of "story."

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for the revision of this submission. It comes much closer to the requirements of the narrative essay section. However, there is still a concern that it reads more like an opinion piece in sections. Please consider reworking the paragraph that starts "Of course she was right. As the traditional scut work subsided..." Perhaps you could frame it as a give-and-take dialogue between you and the residents: "Remembering the "good" old days, I said, 'Instead of delicate searching for veins...' and a resident called out, 'Now we search computer tabs...' and continue in this vein. Similarly, in the following paragraph, ("As I shared these ideas...") you could also make some of your statement in terms of dialogue: For example, the sentences about "Hours of precious and increasingly limited time..." and "The problem with the scut work learned is that it is not generally applicable to other systems..." could be revised as spoken comments by residents. By making these changes, I believe your important story will come to life a bit more.

We are also recommending a few minor stylistic changes (see attached).

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: This is an interesting topic, as we discussed previously. I'm disappointed the author chose not to revise it along more narrative lines, but from the author's response I don't think that is a realistic possibility. To me, the essay verges closely on opinion, but as you say, it is a fine line. If you agree it falls on the right side, I'm comfortable with accepting the piece for publication.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for your consideration of reviewer and editorial comments, and for the revisions you have made. Thank you also for the clarification of the term meaningful use, that makes perfect sense now in the context of your essay as well as being the basis for a clever pun in the title (sorry, I missed that initially!). As noted previously, we consider this an important issue in resident training, and feel this version captures well a concern that many educators wrestle with daily.