The best writers are scarred, this much I know still holds true. At the very least, as has been said before, the best writers have an incision somewhere on their metaphorical being, evidence of their surgical removal from their words. I still believe that the best writers are, in their moments of genius, child bearers who have given their words Cesarean life. As a student, the First Year Writing course has worked to reinforce my previously held notion that Donald Murray’s The Maker’s Eye: Revising Your Own Manuscript quote is a testament to the parenthood involved in raising, revising, and nurturing one’s own words as they mature into literary adulthood.   
 In their infancy, one’s words are fragile, and treated as such. Their words are protected from harm an ultimately kept safe from the dangers of the outside world. As simply as a mother cannot rely on anyone else to raise her children, a writer, as Murray puts it, “cannot depend on others.” While mothers and writers alike may talk endlessly about their experiences within the life of their children, or perhaps even a single sentence, they must maintain a certain air of hesitancy when receiving feedback. Murray describes a writer’s necessity of caution in terms of suspicion. In accepting the criticism of others, a writer, Murray says, “must… be suspicious of it,” and in accepting praise this suspicion must intensify. An outsider must always be regarded with uncertainty when they attempt to enter the world of your children, be that child human or syntactical. In revising their work, raising their work, nurturing their work, a writer must understand that they are, according to Murray, “their own best enemy.” While they protect their offspring, they must also be willing to implement discipline, to facilitate a change in behavior, and ultimately, to apply a new structure within the life of their son or daughter. Until these measures meant to prepare a child for the realities of the real world are complete, the only instinct a mother of syntax can fully trust are those that she owns. Hers is a work that is almost never done.   
 But, by the time a piece is finished, the best writers have experienced the pangs and scars of parenthood; they have felt the sting of mistakes made, understood the struggle for power as they finally let go, and in the end, they have stood with tears in their eyes, waving to their grown children as they take on a life of their own, free to be their own entity for new audiences. As a student in the First Year Writing classroom at Simmons College, I have developed a deeper understanding of both the Murray quote and my role as a word-mother. I have learned to master the art of creation and destruction. I have learned to appreciate the art of detachment, and the importance of implementing new techniques within the realm of child rearing. The process of revising my personal narrative, restructuring my argument essay, and closely examining other students work as well as the work in the text, has worked to solidify the notion which fueled my first Murray quote response. After completing the FYW course requirement, I still subscribe to the belief that the challenge, as a writer of any kind, is to become fluent in the ability to “apply both [our] caring and [our] craft” to our children.