

Below is your edited essay followed by comments and suggestions for improvement.

Insertions: red; deletions: strikethroughs in blue

The idioms and idiomatic structures have been highlighted.

Topic: Are efforts to stop female genital circumcision a form of cultural imperialism or a legitimate defense of human rights?

The protests against female genital mutilation (FGM) from ~~the~~ so-called ~~"the~~ developed countries" are sometimes considered ~~—mostly by the people who practice the custom—~~ ~~another~~ type of cultural imperialism ~~mostly by the people who practice the custom.~~ However, the efforts against FGM are legitimate because of the existence of multiple ~~and~~ ~~contradictory~~ voices ~~of among~~ the people concerned, the ~~changing~~ tendency of traditions ~~to change~~, and the general right ~~of everyone~~ to criticize cultures¹.

First, we have to ~~see~~ ~~take into account~~ the different opinions of the people from the ~~cultural~~ areas where they practice FGM. Some people insist ~~on~~ the right to follow ~~their~~ ~~this~~ tradition, but some criticize the custom as a human-~~rights~~ abuse. When you listen to the traumatic stories of FGM victims who barely survived ~~the procedure~~ and ~~are trying~~ ~~not to~~ ~~avoid~~ repeating the tragedy for the next generation, you cannot say that those ~~internal~~ protest movements are just ~~a the~~ cultural intervention of ~~the~~ powerful countries².

Second, we must consider the fact that traditions change. People who support the ~~controversial~~ custom argue that it is their tradition that they have to preserve. However, ~~these~~ customs and traditions always change ~~their~~ forms. For example, nowadays, the girls' age for the FGM operation is becoming younger. Moreover, after the criticism against FGM ~~became~~ heated, the practice became one of the symbols of the particular areas or nation states ~~that perform it;~~ ~~so thus~~, the significance of the custom ~~was has~~ changed. Although some people believe that this custom is ~~the a never-changing~~ static tradition, we have to ~~see note the its~~ changes carefully. Otherwise, we will ~~fall into the~~ ~~trap of~~ cultural essentialism, ~~that which does not allow impedes~~ any improvement of the world under the name of ~~preserving~~ tradition³.

Lastly, no one ~~can has a~~ monopoly ~~on~~ the right to criticize cultures. One of the biggest problems of cultural relativism, ~~which if we may can~~ accept FGM as a culture, is that it can stop ~~any all~~ types of criticism and arguments ~~without even addressing them~~. Some say that the outsiders of a particular culture cannot criticize or analyze the culture. However, ~~I~~ if only the insiders can talk about their culture, ~~it can be led to then~~ the ~~only~~ logical conclusion ~~is~~ that one cannot talk about anything but ~~about~~ oneself. That will be the end of ~~any all~~ interactions and thoughts. ~~In this sense~~ ~~Therefore~~, I believe that people from the outside also have the right to criticize FGM and try to stop it based on their own perspectives⁴.

In conclusion, the movements against FGM are not just a form of cultural imperialism, because some people ~~who share from within~~ the cultures also oppose the custom, the custom itself has been changing, and we all have the right to criticize any form of cultures. ~~The m~~ Most importantly, ~~thing is we need~~ to discuss ~~it FGM~~ interactively, not ~~to~~ stop the debate with an easy conclusion⁵.

COMMENTS

1 Introduction Strengths

- Introduces the debate clearly
- Provides the full form of the key term along with its

abbreviation so that the abbreviation is clear for the remainder of the essay

- Uses a strong comprehensive thesis statement that asserts the precise main argument and presents the main points in the order in which you will discuss them

How to improve

- Use a general comment to prepare your readers for your specific argument.

The opening sentence of this essay partially prepares readers for the argument; however, it is still quite specific. Therefore, before you present the precise debate, you should use a more general statement. This general comment should show the issue's greater context and relevance or provide background information about the topic.

For example, you could write, *"In the wake of overt imperialism's fall from grace, increasing numbers of scholars and others have begun identifying more insidious forms of imperialism, taking to task everything from soft drinks to scholarship."*

Taking an alternate tack, you could write, *"Female genital circumcision, which is also known as 'female genital cutting' or 'female genital mutilation,' refers to a class of operations performed on girls or young women for non-medical reasons and has drawn a great deal of criticism."*

Language tips

Edited: The protests against female genital mutilation (FGM) from ~~the~~ so-called ~~"the developed countries"~~ are sometimes considered ~~mostly by the people who practice the custom—another~~ type of cultural imperialism ~~mostly by the people who practice the custom~~.

Word order: When you use two or more determiners or adjectives to describe a noun, you should arrange these modifiers according to a prescribed order called "the royal order of adjectives." This rule is flexible in some regards, but determiners always come first.

Example: She was a happy little Beagle puppy. (The determiner "a" precedes the list of adjectives, which also follow a specified order.)

In your sentence, you should place the definite article "the" before the observation adjective "so-called."

Misplaced modifier: The confusing modifier in the original sentence is the prepositional phrase "mostly by the people...." This phrase could modify either the noun phrase "cultural imperialism" or the verb phrase "are sometimes considered." In other words, it sounds like you might be saying that the people who practice the custom are accused of a form of cultural imperialism. Thus, you should clarify the sentence by placing the modifier right next to what it describes. Look at the edited sentence to see how I have done this.

Confusing: They said it was going to rain on the radio. (It sounds like the radio will get wet.)

Better: On the radio, they said it was going to rain. (Now, it is clear that the announcers broadcasted their prediction of rain through radio)

		<p>waves.)</p> <p>Additionally, this prepositional phrase is an emphatic piece of extra information. You could remove this phrase without affecting the overall meaning of the sentence; however, this additional information is useful in beginning to undermine the opposing argument. Therefore, you should set it apart from the sentence as a parenthetical element and emphasize it with dashes.</p> <p><i>Example: Do not overuse dashes—use them only to emphasize important additions.</i></p>
2	Body paragraph 1	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a clear transition and topic sentence • Asserts an important supportive point • Provides supportive evidence for the readers • Finishes with a logical and moving concluding sentence that wraps up the evidence and reemphasizes the overall argument <p>Nice body paragraph!</p>
3	Body paragraph 2	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins with a clear transition and topic sentence • Concisely states a key point • Presents the counterpoint and refutes it roundly • Uses relevant examples as good evidence • Makes an effective appeal to readers to find their own examples of change and inconsistency • Uses a helpful technical term (i.e., “cultural essentialism”) and explains its effects for a general audience • Concludes with a strong warning that links to the following paragraph <p>How to improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the “slippery slope” logical fallacy. <p>This is another strong paragraph, but the final sentence slightly overextends the point. The final sentence is strong, but it expands the focus of this body paragraph too broadly. This type of sweeping conclusion would be more appropriate in the concluding or introductory paragraph, both of which can afford to approach topics more broadly.</p> <p>Additionally, the final sentence smacks of a seductive logical fallacy known as the “slippery slope fallacy.” We can easily slip into using this fallacy when we talk about a logical progression or chain reaction that ultimately results in a dire consequence. If we have not provided enough support for this final consequence, then we have made the unwarranted assumption that the chain reaction cannot be stopped once it begins. The fallacy takes its name from the following metaphor: people take a step onto a crumbling hillside, and once the landslide starts, they cannot stop their fall.</p> <p>Your paragraph does not provide enough evidence for its dire conclusion, that we will be unable to improve anything in the world simply because we succumb to cultural essentialism regarding FGM. Therefore, you should focus your concluding sentence on your precise point and avoid making a sweeping</p>

		<p>conclusion.</p> <p>Language tips</p> <p>Edited: Otherwise, we will <u>fall into the trap of</u> cultural essentialism, that which does not allow impedes any improvement of the world under the name of <u>preserving</u> tradition.</p> <p>Idioms: The idiom “fall into the trap of [something]/[doing something]” means “do something foolish because it seems like a good idea at first.” This fits your sentence’s meaning well, so you should add the few extra words to complete the idiom. <i>Example: I <u>fell into the trap of</u> taking an extra helping of dessert at the buffet; now, I feel ill. (It seemed like such a good idea at the time.)</i></p> <p>Parenthetical elements: A parenthetical element is a phrase that could be removed from the sentence without changing the basic meaning of the sentence. These elements contain nonessential information. Depending on the context, the words “who” and “which” can introduce either essential or nonessential information. (Technically, “that” introduces essential information, and “which” introduces nonessential information, but many writers use “which” for either type.) When the information is essential to the fundamental meaning of the sentence, you should not use any punctuation around the phrase. <i>Essential: He is the person <u>who holds the record for eating the most hot dogs</u>. (Without the phrase beginning with “who,” the reader does not know which man the sentence refers to. In other words, this phrase identifies the man.)</i> However, you should use commas (or sometimes dashes or parentheses) before and after parenthetical elements, that is, phrases containing nonessential information. <i>Parenthetical: That man, <u>who holds the record for eating the most hot dogs</u>, is smaller than I expected. (The fundamental meaning is “that man is smaller than I expected.” The phrase beginning with “who” adds nonessential information about a man who is already sufficiently identified.)</i></p> <p>In your sentence, you have provided the essential identification within the noun phrase “cultural essentialism”; therefore, you have already sufficiently identified it. The information about what this pitfall hinders is technically nonessential, even though it provides nice explanation and emphasis to the sentence. Thus, you should use a comma before the parenthetical element “which impedes....”</p>
4	Body paragraph 3	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins with a clear transition and topic sentence • Asserts an strong supportive claim • Uses another good technical term (i.e., “cultural relativism”) to argue your point and place your claim in the larger debate • Uses clear logical reasoning to persuade the readers • Excellent concluding sentence that reemphasizes the thesis <p>How to improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a more sophisticated transition. <p>In order to show the strong relationship between the body paragraphs, you should use a more detailed transition. This</p>

		<p>gives your readers the impression that you have covered the most important points and organized your essay perfectly. The previous paragraph's concluding sentence sets up a strong transition, so you should capitalize on this by presenting the precise connection. For example, you could write, <i>"Lastly, just as we should not think of culture as invariable, we should not consider it holy; no one has a monopoly on the right to criticize cultures."</i></p>
5	Conclusion	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a good transition• Restates the main argument and points in a clear and interesting way• Finishes with an excellent extension of the argument that provides advice for the readers <p>How to improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that you address the precise topic. <p>This concluding paragraph is excellent. Nice work!</p> <p>However, after reading this essay, readers will still be unclear about your position on the "efforts to stop female genital circumcision." You have made a persuasive case for the right of outsiders to criticize this practice, but this does not necessarily extend to stopping the practice. In order to fully address and answer the topic question, you should make your answer explicit.</p> <p>Nonetheless, if readers only consider your argument on its own, they will find it strong, logical, and persuasive.</p> <p>Well done!</p>

Essay rating

Parameter	Rating
Content and ideas	Very good
Organization of thought	Very good
Structure	Excellent
Stylistics	Very good
Mechanics and grammar	Very good

Your essay's grade: A-

The protests against female genital mutilation (FGM) from the so-called “developed countries” are sometimes considered—mostly by the people who practice the custom—a type of cultural imperialism. However, the efforts against FGM are legitimate because of the existence of multiple and contradictory voices among the people concerned, the tendency of traditions to change, and the general right of everyone to criticize cultures.

First, we have to take into account the different opinions of the people from the areas where they practice FGM. Some people insist on the right to follow this tradition, but some criticize the custom as a human rights abuse. When you listen to the traumatic stories of FGM victims who barely survived the procedure and are trying to avoid repeating the tragedy for the next generation, you cannot say that those internal protest movements are just the cultural intervention of powerful countries.

Second, we must consider the fact that traditions change. People who support the controversial custom argue that it is their tradition that they have to preserve. However, customs and traditions always change forms. For example, nowadays, the girls’ age for the FGM operation is becoming younger. Moreover, after the criticism against FGM became heated, the practice became one of the symbols of the particular areas or nation states that perform it; thus, the significance of the custom has changed. Although some people believe that this custom is a static tradition, we have to note its changes carefully. Otherwise, we will fall into the trap of cultural essentialism, which impedes any improvement of the world under the name of preserving tradition.

Lastly, no one has a monopoly on the right to criticize cultures. One of the biggest problems of cultural relativism, if we can accept FGM as a culture, is that it can stop all types of criticism and arguments without even addressing them. Some say that the outsiders of a particular culture cannot criticize or analyze the culture. However, if only the insiders can talk about their culture, then the only logical conclusion is that one cannot talk about anything but oneself. That will be the end of all interaction and thought. Therefore, I believe that people from the outside also have the right to criticize FGM and try to stop it based on their own perspectives.

In conclusion, the movements against FGM are not just a form of cultural imperialism, because some people from within the cultures also oppose the custom, the custom itself has been changing, and we all have the right to criticize any form of culture. Most importantly, we need to discuss FGM interactively, not stop the debate with an easy conclusion.