Directions: This is a sample of the Pivotal Passage Write Paper. Note—this sample is NOT complete, rather it is just the start of the paper to help you get started yourself. You will do two-three passages with two-three reflections (how many paragraphs those reflections are is up to you) and an introduction and conclusion. You will also need a title and MLA header.

**Our Humanity**

Humans are social creatures that seek out contact with people at any age, starting with our conception and into our elderly years. We need relationships. We crave them. We are at a loss without them. Relationships are a key part of the human experience and it is in Khaled Hosseini’s The Kite Runner where we see how relationships grow, change, diminish, and are even reborn.

**#1:**

**“Hassan and I fed from the same breast. We took our first steps on the same lawn in the same yard. And, under the same roof, we spoke our first words.**

**Mine was Baba.**

**His was Amir. My name” (Hosseini, 11).**

The relationship between Amir and Hassan was established at the earliest possible stage of their lives: infancy. The narration Amir shares above reveals so much about the relationships in the book. It also reveals the hamartia of the characters. Amir zealously seeks out the love of his monolith father to no avail in most of the novel. Amir’s first word—and Hosseini’s purposefully simple syntax in this scene—says so much about Amir as our protagonist. He wants to get his father’s approval and his unconditional love for Baba is seen at the very beginning of his life. This is Amir’s tragic flaw—he seeks this approval at any means possible, sacrificing one relationship (Hassan) for another (Baba). Amir spends most of the novel chasing after his father, much like Hassan chases after Amir.

Hassan’s first word is also symbolic of relationships; by saying Amir’s name first, we come to realize Hassan is Amir’s foil—he seeks Amir’s love and affection and with little compensation in return. In retrospect this passage reveals so much more about the relationship than with a first read, and in a way foreshadows the shocking truth later on that Hassan is Amir’s half-brother. Thus the act of “feeding from the same breast” (11) is truly ironic, for not only did they share the same nourishment as babies, but they share the same blood line from Baba. In the end, this scene is vital to better understanding the relationships between Amir and Baba and Amir and Hassan and how its causes tragedy and turmoil for the entire book.

**#2:**

**Maybe Hassan was the price I had to pay, the lamb I had to slay, to win Baba. Was it a fair price? The answer floated to my conscious mind before I could thwart it: He was just a Hazara, wasn’t he? (77).**

Chapter seven is a huge turning point in the book for so many characters, and also many relationships…

Reflection: What I like and want to do in my own paper…