

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: The Writing Process (Unit 2, pages 78–81)

Assignment: For a magazine about the past, write a one-page description of a former activity or pastime.

When Work Was Called Fun

It's hard to imagine that people used to consider work-parties fun. My grandma Mae recently found a journal written by my great-great-grandmother Elsie, and by reading it I learned about the things people used to do for work and fun. For instance, instead of going to an office and then coming home to watch television, people might work on a farm all day and spend their evenings playing music or telling stories. The pastime Grandma Elsie wrote about that I found the most interesting was the cornhusking work-parties she attended in the fall.

A cornhusking party gave people a chance to make a game out of getting their work done. Men and women would sit in a circle and divide themselves into two teams. The teams would have contests to see who could peel the husks off the corn the fastest. While they worked the teams would tell jokes, talk, and sing. At the end of the race, the corn went into the barn to save for the year.

The party then included a huge dinner for everyone. Grandma Elsie described the roasted pigs, beans, peas, applesauce, pies, and cider that everyone shared. My mom reminded me that all of that food had to be made from scratch. People couldn't run to the store to buy a can of applesauce or a pie. Sometimes they even used some of the corn to make popcorn that night.

After dinner came more games and contests, like running and jumping races. My great-great-grandmother was not allowed to participate in those because she was a woman. Instead, she sat on the sidelines and watched and cheered with the other women. The evening might also include something called a "hammer throw," a contest to see who could throw a hammer the farthest. At the end of the evening, everyone might participate in a square dance. Grandma Elsie loved square dancing. She said my great-great-grandfather was the best partner there. For her, cornhusking seemed to be a great way to be with people she loved and have fun while getting her work done.

Summary: *The piece vividly presents a past activity. It makes the activity clear to the reader by telling the context in which it occurred, by describing its stages in chronological order, and by including relevant details.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 98 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opens by introducing the subject and providing a context for it, and engages the reader by comparing the present with the past

Helps the reader understand the activity by providing detailed descriptions

Presents stages of the activity in chronological order and uses transitions to make that order clear

Defines an unfamiliar term

Includes a clear ending statement