

Name Class Date

Below-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.

Working for Fun

Grandma Mae found something wrote by my great-great-grandmother. Where? In the attic. I learned a lot of things people used to do for fun. They didn't have televisions to watch back then. It was boring. For fun they worked. Sewing, cooking, cleaning, farm stuff. Even their parties were work. That's my pastime. She never got paid for work. Not me. I never knew much about life back then. The past is a long time ago. This one grandma was so long ago I didn't know her at all, no one else in my family does either.

A cornhusking party was work and fun to her but not me. They husked a lot of corn. They had contests to see who could do it the most fastest. Next, they had games, running and jumping. Then square dancing. Then hammer throws. Last they ate dinner. Dinner was a lot of food that women cooked. Maybe they had popcorn too sometimes, I think she said that. Who cooked that? I don't know. Probably the moms and girls. They cooked everything else. They couldn't buy anything at the store. Not like we do now. And they didn't even have electricity, I don't think. One more reason why I'm glad I live now.

Opening paragraph lacks focus, and statements are vague.

Stages of the activity are mentioned in the order in which they occur, but no details are given.

Throughout, writing is choppy and ideas are undeveloped.

Summary: *The piece tells about an activity from the past, but it lacks sufficient detail and precise vocabulary, and it contains grammatical errors that interfere with its meaning. The piece could be improved if the introduction were revised to make it more focused and engaging, and if several of the stages mentioned in the second paragraph were elaborated upon.*

This piece might receive a 1 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 65 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—25 points for Focus/Organization, 20 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 20 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.