

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Narrative Writing (Unit 4, pages 192–195)

Assignment: Write a two-page narrative that could serve as part of a longer chapter about a pivotal event in your life.

A World of New Possibilities

When I was nine years old, our teacher explained to us that the universe was infinite and ever expanding. I remember sitting up straight in my seat and the walls of the classroom suddenly looking farther away, the room growing larger and more exciting before my eyes. At home, I told my older brother about my day. “Let me tell you something. In our world, nothing changes. Day in, day out, we go to school, come home, hang out, go to sleep. There’s nothing new under the sun,” he said.

Five years later, by tenth grade, the world really did seem as small and predictable as he’d described it. I felt trapped by the familiarity of my routine. Weekdays, I rode to school with my friend Jose in his rusty car with its torn suede seat covers and rumbling muffler. On weekends, I hung out with Jose and Luis at the mall.

Then one day at school a man I’d never seen before walked into my gym class. He was dark skinned and wore several heavy-looking beaded necklaces, a pair of baggy African-looking pants, and leather sandals. He carried himself like a dancer, but he was as muscular and wiry as a wrestler. From the other side of the gym, we stole glances at him while we finished our game of soccer. Something about that man’s presence made us all try harder. By the end of the class, I was panting with exertion but had scored two more goals. Our gym teacher called us over, and we all watched as he and this stranger clapped each other on the back.

“This is Paul Martin,” said our teacher. “He’s a friend of mine and a great dancer.”

“Hello,” Paul said, stepping forward and smiling confidently. “I’m here to recruit new members for a Capoeira troop.” Paul explained that Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art that has evolved into an extremely aerobic form of dance. “I’d like to invite a few of you to stay after class, based on your teacher’s recommendations,” he said. Then he demonstrated a few moves for us, jumping high in the air and twisting his body so that he spiraled as he hit the ground. He jumped up again and landed with his legs in a half-split.

Finally, he pulled out a piece of paper and read off some names. Jose’s name was on it, but mine wasn’t. “That’s it,” he said when no one else moved. Slowly, the other guys began trickling away. How could my name not be on the list when I wanted it to be so badly? My body felt heavy as I turned toward the locker room door.

Then I heard Paul’s deep voice behind me, “Oh, yes, and Bryce. Is there a Bryce?”

I’ve now been a member of Paul’s Capoeira troop for two years. I’ve performed all over Southern California with them, growing stronger in body and in mind.

That day in the gym, I felt the creaky wooden floor buckle and sway as my universe finally expanded.

Opening engages reader’s interest by re-creating a significant moment in writer’s life.

Details help to establish a specific mood and tone.

Uses vivid character description to introduce suspense

Dialogue is realistic and advances plot.

Carefully describes scene, but delays information to maintain suspense

Uses extended metaphor and direct statements to convey emotional impact

Summary: This narrative uses an extended metaphor to show the impact of an event.

This piece might receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 100 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.