

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Personal Writing (Unit 1, pages 24–27)

Assignment: For a magazine directed at ten- to fifteen-year-old students, write a one-page article about a special day or event in your life.

The Dr. King Holiday Parade

As usual, this year on Martin Luther King Day, we didn't have school. But my best friend Shelby and I didn't spend the day hanging out at Shelby's house like we usually do on a day off. This year was different because we organized a parade.

Introduces the subject, a special holiday parade

A few weeks before the holiday, our teacher Mr. Pinter said that we should spend the day doing something special that reminded us of civil rights. We had been studying Dr. King and knew about his work as a civil rights leader. Mr. Pinter gave us a few days to think about how we might spend our holiday, then he asked what we had decided to do.

Shelby and I came up with the idea to organize a parade. That weekend, Shelby and I and some of our other friends talked about the idea. We decided to ask our brothers and sisters to join us. We spent lots of time making signs honoring Dr. King, and it was fun. Isaiah said we should make flyers so our neighbors would know about the parade and come to watch it. We hung the flyers up on Saturday evening. The parade was on Monday.

Provides background information to help the reader understand the event

The morning of the parade, the sky looked gray. I worried that it would start raining and ruin everything. But when we started marching with our signs, I forgot about the weather because people came out of their houses to see us. My mom even carried my baby sister outside to see us. As we walked through our neighborhood, we sang "We Shall Overcome." That's one of the freedom songs that Dr. King used to sing during his marches. By the time we reached the park on Sixth Street, a few people from the neighborhood had started singing along with us. When we all sang together, I got shivers from thinking about the awesome faith and bravery of Dr. King and the other civil rights activists. Walking in the cold was nothing compared to the sacrifices they made, but I felt close to them when I looked around and saw more than twenty people in winter coats walking and singing together.

Conveys a clear impression of the day and uses transitions to make the order of the events clear

Our parade ended at the park. Once we were there, Sondra read a poem about Dr. King. Everyone clapped when she finished. They seemed happy to be celebrating peace and freedom. I felt like we'd brought people in our neighborhood together for a day. The parade inspired me to try to bring people together again.

Includes words and images that draw attention to the special nature of the event

Presents the author's thoughts and feelings

Summary: *This account focuses on a specific event and makes clear why the event was important to the writer. The piece presents specific details, thoughts, and feelings in a logical order.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 96 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 31 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.