

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

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

People used to say work was fun. They even had work parties. I've never been to a work party, neither have my parents or my grandparents. My grandmother found a diary written by my great-great-grandmother. It was in a box in the attic. Which is very dirty up there! I learned a lot about things people did for fun a long time ago. The thing I found most interesting was the cornhusking party.

Opening introduces the topic but includes errors in sentence structure.

A cornhusking party made working into a game. Men and women would sit in a circle and divide themselves into two teams. The teams had contests to see who could get the husks off the corn the fastest. My grandmother didn't say what the winners got. Maybe they just felt good. Then the corn went into the barn.

Includes details and transitions that make the activity clear

Next came the games and other contests, running and jumping races. She was not in those. Only men ran then. She watched. I would have hated that. I love to run. I am the second fastest person in my class out of all the girls and boys. The games might also be a hammer throw. They also had square dancing. She loved square dancing. She danced with my great-great grandfather. I wonder if they had a band and what kind of music she liked.

Irrelevant details and a lack of transitions to tie ideas together make the writing choppy.

They had a huge dinner for everyone too. She described the food that everyone shared. They made the food from scratch. They couldn't buy it in a hurry. That's what we do before parties sometimes. Like for my friend Tory's birthday party last Saturday but we don't bring the same stuff they had. Just potato chips and dip. And we never make people work at our house. Also at the cornhusking party they made popcorn sometimes. Most of the corn was to feed the animals, but the party was fun for everyone, even though it was work too.

Loses focus on a past activity

Summary: *The piece introduces an activity from the past and includes many clear details, but it loses focus in the last two paragraphs. The account could be improved by including more details about the activity and omitting some details about the writer's life. In addition, the piece could be revised so that pronouns refer more clearly to their antecedents and transitions are used to connect ideas.*

This piece might receive a 3 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive an 82 if evaluated by the analytic method—32 for Focus/Organization, 30 for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 20 for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.