

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: The Writing Process (Unit 2, pages 108–111)

Assignment: Write a one- to two-page story about one of your family members.

My Vacation with Grandpa

When I was three years old my family took a vacation in the Florida keys. Me, my parents, and my grandparents rented a boat and spent a week cruising around there. I don't remember a lot about it. But the story of my grandpa catching an alligator is famous in our family now. We went around in the keys for a week and then one day my grandpa was fishing off the back of the boat and all of a sudden he had something really big on the fishing pole.

My parents moved to Cincinnati from Alabama when they got married so we didn't see my grandparents very much. But everybody says that he was a really popular man there. Everybody loved him. When I was born so many people brought food that they had to store it on the back porch, because they ran out of room in the refrigerator.

He was a pretty bad fisherman, the whole time on vacation he didn't catch anything, except a few small gross kind of fish. The grownups cooked and ate the fish for dinner. I didn't though. When he said he caught something big everybody was really excited. We all crowded around him to watch him catch this fish. It took forever and he was sweating and stuff. I think I remember him yelling. Then all of a sudden he got the fish.

But it turned out to be a baby alligator. I still remember what it looked like. It lay there on the deck and it looked scared. My grandpa picked up the alligator by its tail. My grandma took a picture of him with it. Then he threw it back into the water.

My grandpa died a couple months later and he was wasn't even very old yet. Only sixty-four, which is a lot younger than my other Grandpa is now. I'm sad that I never really got to know him. But everybody remembers this story, because it was so funny and because of how he was holding up the baby alligator and smiling in that picture.

Summary: *This story focuses on a specific memory of a family member, but the writing lacks a consistent organizational structure and sufficient details. The writing could be improved by adding clearer transitions and reordering the information in the second paragraph, by including revealing dialogue, and by replacing vague words with more vivid details. The story also could be improved by correcting unclear pronoun references and other grammatical errors.*

This piece would probably receive a 2 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 78 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—27 points for Focus/Organization, 28 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 23 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opening introduces topic, but grammatical errors distract the reader.

Presents background information, but the order and relevance of details are unclear

Lacks specific details, and the grandfather's personality remains unclear

Ending includes the writer's feelings but loses focus on the story.