

# Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name ..... Class ..... Date .....

## Average Writing Model

### Writing Process in Action: Expository Writing (Unit 5, pages 272–275)

**Assignment:** Write a one- to two-page article that will help sixth-grade science students appreciate a creature otherwise likely to repel them.

#### Spiders

When I was little my favorite book was *Charlotte's Web*. In that book Wilbur makes friends with Charlotte who is a spider. When the farmers come and want to take him away to be killed she saves his life by writing how great he is in her spider web. Ever since I read the book I'm not afraid of spiders.

Spiders are predators. People think of tarantulas and get scared, but really they mostly prey on insects. Farmers like having spiders around because they feed on insects that eat their crops. Some spiders catch prey by listening to them and others have strong eyesight and can see what they're trying to catch. There are also Spitting Spiders.

Lots of spiders catch their dinner in webs. They make the webs out of silk. There's lots of different kinds of silk and webs. Once the web is started the spider spins out the different parts of it. They can go from the center out to the edges and go around to make more circles. Kind of like a bicycle. The silk catches on lots of different kinds of things to stick. You might have seen this in your house, for instance, but those webs are cobwebs and they are a different kind. They are actually very beautiful if you think about it and not gross at all.

It only takes an hour or so to make a web. After that the spider hangs out in the middle and waits for a fly or something. Once the poor fly is trapped and helpless, the spider might just kill and eat it right there. The webs have to be rebuilt everyday because the spider's innocent victims struggle to try to get out and then end up messing it up.

There are lots of different spiders in the world but most of them trap their prey in a similiar way. No matter how they do it, their all special.

**Summary:** This article offers the writer's opinion and some facts about spiders and attempts to show their value; however, the evidence and word choices selected do not necessarily lead the reader to a greater appreciation of the writer's topic. The writing could be improved by revising it to include more specific details in the opening paragraph, by presenting appropriate evidence in a logical order, and by using clear transitions to connect ideas. The writing also could be improved by revising it to eliminate errors in spelling and grammar.

This piece would probably receive a 2 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 79 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—28 points for Focus/Organization, 26 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 25 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

*Opening introduces topic but is not appropriate for an article.*

*Ideas lack transitions and are not fully explained.*

*Evidence is vague, and writing contains grammatical errors.*

*Examples and words choices are not suited to overall purpose.*

*Ending lacks closure and adequate supporting evidence.*