

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Personal Writing (Unit 1, pages 28–31)

Assignment: Write a one-page article about a special day or event.

When I Saw The Northern Lights

One time I saw the Northern Lights. It happened when I was camping with my family. I could barely believe my eyes. The Northern Lights were amazing. That night was one of the best in my life.

You can only see the Northern Lights at night and you have to be in the right place to see them. My sister had tried to get me to notice the lights, but I ignored her. I thought it was just a searchlight or something like that. Then I saw everyone else at the campground was looking at the sky. So were my parents.

The lights were weird. They spread out over everything. This took a very long time. My mom, dad, me, and my sister sat outside the whole time. I didn't know what was going on. I asked my parents. They didn't know either. They showed us stars and stuff. The stars were very very bright.

I loved watching those lights. Nobody in my class had ever seen them. I told everyone about it in science class the next year. My teacher hadn't even seen them. I think about them and try to see them and other things a lot of times. I hope I get to see them again someday. Maybe I'll try to be a scientist when I finish school. Or like the ranger. He's the one who told us what the Northern Lights are and I think he's very smart and lucky because he probably gets to see them all the time. That would be a cool job, too.

Summary: The article introduces a special experience and includes some clear details, but it loses focus in the last paragraph and contains significant grammatical errors. The article could be improved by adding supporting details that further describe the experience and its significance. In addition, the piece could be revised to eliminate irrelevant details and grammatical errors.

This piece might receive a 2 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 78 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—28 points for Focus/Organization, 30 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 20 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opening introduces the topic but lacks specific details.

Provides some details that help make the event clear but includes errors in punctuation and sentence structure

A lack of transitions and specific language make the writing choppy and vague.

Conclusion begins to state the experience's significance to author but loses focus.