

## Above-average Writing Model

### Writing Process in Action: The Writing Process (Unit 2, pages 86–89)

**Assignment:** Write a three- to four-paragraph article about someone whose bravery you admire.

#### Starting Over

Almost every Friday night during basketball season, my family and I go to watch the bravest person I know play basketball. Lê Van Linh is that person. He has the most steals on the high school varsity team, even though he's five inches shorter than most of the other players and learned to play basketball only seven years ago. However, I don't consider Lê brave just because of his success at basketball. I think Lê has great courage because of the way he's succeeded at making Houma, Louisiana, his home.

*Introduces subject in an interesting, vivid way*

I can't imagine moving to a completely different country and going through the things Lê did. Lê moved here from Cambodia when he was eleven years old. The Linhs had to leave their country because Mr. Linh had problems with the government. When Lê first arrived in town, he and his parents did not speak English. Some kids teased him because he brought Vietnamese food for his lunch, but Lê ignored this because he is proud of his family's mix of cultures.

*Provides important background information*

It would be hard enough just to move somewhere so different, but Lê takes on all the extra challenges he can. A few weeks after the Linhs moved here, Lê became my brother's best friend. Since they couldn't speak the same language then, they played basketball for hours every day after school. Lê was fast. He practiced hard. Soon, he was playing against older kids. Everyone started to respect him for that. And that's how Lê is with everything. For instance, by the time he had lived here one year, his English was very good. Right now, he works a part-time job after school at a pizzeria, makes the honor role most semesters, and stars on the varsity basketball team.

*Uses transitional phrases to connect ideas and provides specific examples to clarify ideas*

My brother says that Lê is one of the most well-liked students in the high school. I admire my brother, but I think it would be as hard for him as it would be for me to start over someplace else. Lê's courage in the face of great challenges is something I admire very much. I would want to be like him if I ever moved to another country.

*Closes by emphasizing the writer's admiration of the subject*

**Summary:** *The article focuses on a single person and provides specific examples that make it clear why the author admires him.*

*This piece might receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 95 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—32 points for Focus/Organization, 34 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 29 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.*