

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Descriptive Writing (Unit 3, pages 138–141)

Assignment: Write a one-page travel article about a special place.

A Taste of Mexico City

When you are in Austin, Texas, make sure you go to El Mariachi for lunch or dinner. It's my favorite restaurant, because it's like combining a great Mexican meal and a party into one thing. From the minute you walk inside El Mariachi, you know it is going to be different than most restaurants. On Friday and Saturday nights they have live mariachi bands playing music in the corner. Sometimes the room can get very loud with trumpets blasting and customers singing along in Spanish. The walls are decorated with brightly colored blankets and sombreros. Large piñatas in the shapes of bulls, donkeys, and other animals hang from the ceiling. If you have dinner at El Mariachi on your birthday, they'll even let you try to break open one of the piñatas filled with candies and toys.

Juan Gonzalez is the restaurant's owner. He makes sure everyone feels at home. Every time we have dinner there, he stops by everyone's table to say hello and ask about the food. The dishes include Tex-Mex food like burritos, chalupas, and chimichangas. Chimichangas are my favorite. They look like a deep-fried burrito. They come dripping with warm, gooey cheese and refried beans inside. On top are fresh, crisp lettuce and tomatoes. El Mariachi also has more Mexico-City type food, like different kinds of molé, sieta mares, and gorditas. Not all the food is spicy. But there are plenty of jalapeno peppers and hot sauces if you want them. If you burn your tongue you can cool down with a tall, cool glass of milk.

No matter what you order at El Mariachi, you can't go wrong. By the end of the night, your voice will probably be hoarse from singing along with the band, and your stomach will be full of food. Even my grandmother likes El Mariachi. When she came with us once last year, she said that she had a great time and that the food was as good as in Mexico City. I can't think of a better recommendation for any Mexican restaurant in the U.S. than that.

Summary: *The article shows why the place is special to the writer and uses details that appeal to all five senses to convey the festive mood of the restaurant.*

This piece might receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 96 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 26 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Introduces subject in an engaging way and presents information in a clear, logical order

Describes sights and sounds to create a specific impression of the place

Includes relevant details to describe tastes and textures

Effective use of transitions to lead into the ending