

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

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.

The Best Restaurant in Texas

My grandmother is one of the best cooks around. She makes tacos, molé sauce, enchiladas, and anything else you might want. She lives too far away to see her very often, though. She used to live in Mexico. Now she doesn't, but she doesn't live with us in Texas either. She lives in California with my aunt. The only place that can beat her food is El Mariachi. I love the food at El Mariachi. Its even better than my moms, and my mom is a good cook too.

El Mariachi has lots of bright colors everywhere. The walls are decorated with blankets and sombreros. Piñatas hang from the ceiling. A real mariachi band plays on Friday and Saturday nights. The band knows more than mariachi songs. They also play other kinds of music. Some pop songs. The restaurant can get very loud. The trumpets are the loudest. I like them best.

The best thing on the menu at El Mariachi is the chimichanga. Its filled with cheese and beans. They put lettuce and tomatoes on top. If you want hot sauce, you can ask but I don't like my food too spicy. Maybe one jalapeno pepper sometimes with a big glass of milk. My dad pours a lot of hot sauce on his food. He usually orders a burrito with extra rice and refried beans on the side. Sometimes something else. My grandmother said she didn't used to eat burritos in Mexico.

The smells inside the restaurant are great too. Tortillas cooking, onions, garlic, and smokey like a b-b-q. They remind me of a restaurant we ate at once in Mexico City a long time ago. I like to close my eyes sometimes and pretend I am there.

Summary: *The piece tells about a special place and includes good sensory details, but it is not presented as a travel article and it contains grammatical errors that interfere with its meaning. The piece could be improved if the introduction were revised to make it more appropriate to a travel article, and if the body paragraphs each related to the focus set out by the introduction.*

This piece might receive a 2 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 76 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—25 for Focus/Organization, 31 for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 20 for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Introduces subject but irrelevant details confuse focus

Includes some vivid sensory details

Contains grammatical errors and vague statements

Closing does not clearly relate to opening.

Descriptive Writing