

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Persuasive Writing (Unit 6, pages 294–297)

Assignment: For a magazine called *This is America*, write a three- to four-paragraph article persuading others to save something uniquely American.

The Good Ole’ American Drive-In

My family has a summer tradition that is as American as grilling hotdogs or visiting Yosemite. On most Friday or Saturday summer nights, we go to Beechum’s Drive-In Movie Theater. We eat a lot of snacks and get to see movies outside on the big screen. But a national theater chain plans to end this tradition for everyone. The company is going to buy the drive-in and tear it down to build a movie complex. They have every right to build a movie complex if they want, but they shouldn’t destroy the summer drive-in theater, which is part of our American culture.

The reason this company plans to demolish the drive-in can’t be that no one goes there or because the theater is losing money. Mr. and Mrs. Beechum have earned a living from their theater for the past thirty-five years and they say it still makes money. However, Mr. Beechum’s health is getting worse and they can’t keep running the theater. The chain has offered the Beechums more money than they are asking, and they haven’t received any other offers yet. The national chain wants to buy and tear down the drive-in so that its new complex will have less competition. In my opinion, this is the opposite of the American spirit of competition. This national company will be destroying an American tradition and a good business because of simple greed.

It might be too late for the Beechum Drive-In to be saved, but it’s not too late to make sure other drive-ins are preserved. I once read a news story about some people in an Ohio town that created a co-op to save a small, historic movie theater. Maybe other towns could come up with a plan to do the same thing for the few remaining drive-in theaters. Just because they’re outdoors doesn’t mean they shouldn’t qualify as historic sites. Outdoor parks and other public spaces are preserved. At the very least, people from the local community or historic society could circulate a petition to show support for the drive-in theaters that still exist. It’s not too late to do at least that much for the Beechum Drive-In. It is the last one left in Lenawee County, and as something that is uniquely and historically American, I believe it should be saved for present and future generations to enjoy.

Uses personal experience to engage readers’ interest in topic; states a clear position

Provides specific examples and details to elaborate on the problem

Uses persuasive language to express personal opinion

Suggests possible solutions for own and other communities

Closes by restating position

Summary: *The article uses personal experiences, facts, and persuasive language to convincingly argue why an American institution should be preserved. In addition, the piece includes a possible action readers might take to solve the problem discussed.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 96 if it were evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 33 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.