



Developing | Exemplar Essay

A Story About Laughter

Different Forms of Laughter



Plot and Ideas

The storyline establishes a plausible context (“Without laughter there would be very little happiness”). The exposition helps to establish the central idea and build toward a resolution (“I felt closer again to Lester and my grandpa because laughing gave us something back that we have in common”). The ideas attempt to address the demands of the task.



Development and Elaboration

The narrative attempts to create a setting for one anecdote (“We used to just sit in his parent’s basement”), but not for the other. Characters are introduced (Lester and grandpa) but are not developed in a way that advances the story. Dialogue is nonexistent, and description is minimal (“I would have been willing to stand on my head if I had to”).



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative includes a sequence of events but lacks a clear beginning, middle, and end. There are a few transitions (“So this one time”), but there is no shift into the second supporting story. There is some attempt at a resolution (“Laughter makes people feel better and move on”), but it does not successfully offer closure to the idea of how laughter helped Lester and the grandpa feel better.



Language and Style

The narrative uses some descriptive words to create imagery and develop the characters (“Laughter can be that little tickle that makes you fall out on the floor laughing”). The writer’s attempts to engage readers and build voices for the narrator are inconsistent and ineffective (“I felt closer again to Lester and my grandpa because laughing gave us something back that we have in common”).



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

A Story About Laughter



Different Forms of Laughter

Laughter takes many forms. It can be a little giggle. It can be a cackle. Laughter can be that little tickle that makes you fall out on the floor laughing. Without laughter there would be very little happiness causing more people to become more depressed and miserable. Laughter is the shortest distance between two people explains this perfectly.

So this one time I went over to my friend Lester's. Lester was a very funny guy. We used to just sit in his parent's basement and laugh and laugh. But this one time I went over he was sad. He didn't want to crack a smile. So I decided to do whatever I could to make him laugh. I told some jokes. I would have been willing to stand on my head if I had to. But let's just say that was one crazy night, we definitely shared a lot of laughter.

Another time was when my grandmother died. That's not funny but she was a funny lady like Lester was a funny guy. My grandpa was really sad which surprised no one because he was married to my grandmother for a really long time. It's not easy to have to live alone after living with someone for very long. Everyone knew that my grandmother told alot of corny jokes.

As you can see by those experiences I feel that laughter can make things easier to cope with or easier to make yourself feel comfortable when things aren't going right. I felt closer again to Lester and my grandpa because laughing gave us something back that we have in common. Laughter makes people feel better and move on.