



Proficient | Exemplar Essay

A Story About Patience

Patience Is a Virtue



Plot and Ideas

This narrative develops a plausible storyline. The exposition is built on and develops the plot (“A time I had to show true patience was when my parents brought home my baby sister from the hospital”). There are sufficient descriptions which build toward the climax and resolution. This narrative’s plot mostly addresses the demands of the prompt.



Development and Elaboration

The narrative develops a clear setting while introducing the characters (“A few days later, my parents brought Maria home”). Effective dialogue and descriptions are included to enhance the narrative.



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative uses mostly effective transitions (“a few months ago,” “it all started,” “a few days later,” “initially”) that develop the story. A sequence of events is established with a clear beginning, middle, and end to the narrative.



Language and Style

The narrative uses descriptive words to create imagery (“Maria cried all night long. She would not stop for anything. I could not get to sleep because of her screaming lungs”), as well as a variety of sentences. The writing is engaging to the reader, and point of view is consistent throughout.



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.

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Notes

Patience is a virtue. It is not an easy skill set to acquire, but is something you train yourself to achieve. Most young people do not have patience, but I do. A time I had to show true patience was when my parents brought home my baby sister from the hospital.

A few months ago, my baby sister Maria was born. I was not very excited to be honest. My older brother John had already graduated and moved out, so I felt like an only child. My parents paid a lot of attention to me, and I loved it. It all started to change one day when my mom and dad asked me to sit down because they had big news.

"What is it?" I questioned. I was for sure they were going to tell me we were going on a cool vacation.

My father spilled the news. "Well Dean, your mother is pregnant" he said anxiously. You should have seen the look on my face. Time seemed to stand still. I could not believe this was happening.

"Oh" I stuttered.

"Well, tell us how you feel honey," my mom asked expectantly.

I wasn't going to lie, so I told her, "I'm excited and nervous at the same time." I've been alone here for awhile, and I've liked it that way.

"You don't have to worry Dean, everything will stay the same," my dad said. I knew that was not going to be true.

Everything was fine for awhile, and then my sister was born. I was excited to go to the hospital to see her. She was so tiny and fragile.

I knew everything would be different once she came home.

A few days later, my parents brought Maria home. She was so cute and I liked holding her. I was beginning to like the idea of being a big brother. Then, night came and I went to my room to sleep. Or so I thought I would. Maria cried all night long. She would not stop for anything. I could not get to sleep because of her screaming lungs.

"Dad, what is wrong with her," I came out of my room at midnight and asked.

"She's just a baby. She will get used to a routine after awhile," he told me.

"When will that be?" I asked impatiently.

"Every baby is different Dean," my mom said. "You didn't have a schedule for 6 months after you were born. You kept us up and your brother all night for a long time," she added.

"Have a little patience Dean," my dad said tiredly.

Annoyed, I went back into my room. I put a playlist on, and put a pillow over my head to drown out Maria's screams.

The next week or so, I was so tired and had trouble keeping my eyes open during school. I didn't think I would ever adjust, but I kept remembering what my dad told me. Just have patience. So I stuck with it and tried to give Maria a chance to figure things out. Little by little, day by day, we both started to adjust to our new life together.

Initially, I was hesitant for my parents to have another baby, but now I love it. Maria is my sister, and I'm so happy to have her. I had to be patient to learn how to adjust to a baby, and trust me, she tested every bit of patience I had. It took a little while, but in the end, it is all worth it.