



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

America Singing

Working in America



Claim and Focus

This essay seems to attempt a claim, but it is neither clear nor developed (“The poems are different but similar”). Rather than focusing on any analysis, this essay focuses on summarization of the poems, which results in a disregard for the actual prompt question.



Analysis and Evidence

The essay offers no direct evidence from the text and consists of mostly summary. Because of the overwhelming amount of summary, there is no real analysis of either poem and no focus on text features, such as structure, word choice, theme, etc., which are mentioned in the prompt.



Organization

While this essay contains sentences that attempt an introduction and conclusion, they are not developed and therefore do not effectively introduce or conclude the response. It also lacks transitions that would help to create a cohesive response.



Language and Style

This essay lacks a formal style, and most sentences try to contain too much information (“One person was white and had the chance to do lots of different jobs and...”). This lack of sentence variety and the occurrence of some errors within the text result in a short response that does not effectively communicate its message.



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

The poems are different but similar. In “I Hear America Singing” it’s about workers doing work and the noises that they make when they are working on their jobs. In “I, too, sing america” it’s about a black person who is a slave or a servant and doesn’t feel free and thinks that he has to leave when the company comes over. But he wants to not leave so he can be strong and be like a free american. One person was white and had the chance to do lots of different jobs and one person was black and during a time when he could only be a servant and not do all of the jobs of the other person. But they both love America because they talk about singing that word out loud because they love it.