



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Choose Your Own Adventure

School Sports



Clarity and Focus

While the writer attempts to introduce a central idea (“Participation in extracurricular activities is an excellent part of middle school life”), the essay does not provide adequate details to support the thesis nor fulfill the purpose.



Development

The essay does not develop the central idea using facts, real-life examples, quotations, etc. Some details are present (“My best friend Thomas plays both sports with me and that makes it fun”), but they do not help to illustrate the central idea.



Organization

The essay includes only one paragraph and is missing key structural components, such as an introduction and concluding section. The writer uses minimal transitions (“finally” and “whenever”) between sentences throughout the essay.



Language and Style

The essay does not establish a formal style. There is little variety in sentence structure, and the vocabulary is basic throughout (“I like sports”). Some errors that interfere with meaning cause some confusion with understanding (“I usually participate in extracurricular activities in school don't get bored”).



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.

Choose Your Own Adventure

School Sports

Participation in extracurricular activities is an excellent part of middle school life. I usually participate in extracurricular activities in school don't get bored. I like sports. The two after school sports that I play are basketball and soccer. In the fall/winter, I play basketball and in the spring/summer I play soccer. They both take up alot of my time. I like playing these sports because it keeps me active and I like playing with my friends honestly. My best friend Thomas plays both sports with me and that makes it fun. Whenever we are in the game together we both work good with each other. Finally, extracurricular activities are important.



Notes
