



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Electricity

How Electricity Works



Claim and Focus

The essay does not make a specific or arguable claim about the texts, but instead offers a general statement about the articles (“In these articles they all use examples and descriptions”). While the writing is focused on the topic of electricity, it neglects to wholly analyze each cited text. The second text (“Short Circuit”) is mentioned but only briefly. Overall, the essay does not address the demands of the prompt.



Analysis and Evidence

Paraphrased, unquoted evidence and general, surface-level analysis are present throughout the essay (“Lastly in ‘Conducting Solutions’ they start of talking an electric current. Then that’s when they bring up ions”). The evidence is vague and is not followed up with explanations on the texts’ purposes or their effect on the reader.



Organization

The essay attempts to craft an introduction and a conclusion (“So yes all the articles give different examples of electricity and how it works”) but the overall structure makes the response difficult to understand. While there are a few transitions that connect ideas throughout (“first,” “lastly,” and “then”), a more robust organizational structure would help the reader fully understand the writer’s claim.



Language and Style

Varied sentence structure is attempted, and the essay uses some precise and domain-specific language to address the topic (“Ions are atoms or small groups of atoms that have an electrical charge”). Frequent references to the articles’ authors as “they” may confuse the reader and interfere with meaning (“Then that’s when they bring up ions”). A formal style is attempted, but not maintained throughout the essay.



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

In these articles they all use examples and descriptions. They talk about electricity and how it works. Each article shows information from the texts. First in "Energy Story" the main focus is the uses of electricity and what electricity actually is. Something else that "Energy Story" covers is how electricity works. Electricity is everywhere and that it lights up our homes and cooks our food the food that helps us live and that's an important thing for our life. They said that if you walk around your building or school and look that all the things use electricity. The purpose of the article "Short Circuit" is to inform the audience about an experiment .

Lastly in "Conducting Solutions" they start of talking an electric current. Then that's when they bring up ions. Ions are atoms or small groups of atoms that have an electrical charge. Some have negative charges and some have positive charges. Pure water is a conductor of electricity because it has fewer ions. So yes all the articles give different examples of electricity and how it works.