



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Is It Art?

Graffiti Is an Art Form



Claim and Focus

A claim is made (“Graffiti is a form of art because it lets you express yourself freely”), but it is not very general and not fully supported. The essay is predominantly on topic, but it does not fully develop its stance in a formal way (“First of all I think graffiti is art because it has a style of its own”), nor does it address all of the demands of the prompt.



Support and Evidence

Evidence from multiple sources is presented (“One of the articles says...” and “In the video Aaron Rose says...”), but the reasoning and explanation associated with that evidence is underdeveloped. The essay attempts to give the writer’s own ideas (“If I were to do graffiti, I would not want someone to remove it because I would be expressing my art”), instead of maintaining an objective stance.



Organization

This essay features some components of a formal organizational structure, but it is not fully established. An introduction is present and a concluding thought is added, but it does not offer adequate closure (“finally, graffiti should be considered art”). Some transitions are used (“first” and “finally”), but they do not clearly illustrate connections between and among ideas.



Language and Style

The word choice is simple and not persuasive enough to interest readers. An inconsistent perspective and informal style causes confusion (“I think graffiti is art” and “How would you feel if this happened to you?”). The sentences attempt a variety but could be extended in order to build a unique voice (“this means...”). There are a few errors present (“there wrong” and “may become a master piece”).



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.

Is It Art?

Graffiti Is an Art Form



Notes

Graffiti can occur in any city or community. Many people feel that graffiti is vandalism, but it is really an art form. Most people see tags in the city and they think it has no artistic form. They're wrong. Graffiti is a form of art because it lets you express yourself freely.

First of all I think graffiti is art because it has a style of its own. The text says that graffiti has been gaining recognition from the art world. This means some people do graffiti to prove a point or show off a talent. Not everyone is talented enough to do graffiti. One of the articles says "graffiti is often multicolored and complex in design, and so it starts to push the boundaries of whether or not it should be called art." If I were to do graffiti, I would not want someone to remove it because I would be expressing my art. How would you feel if this happened to you? In the video Aaron Rose says that the graffiti exhibit "was to steer young graffiti artist away from doing illegal work that they can possibly have a real career." This means that when in the future they can have a job and get money being a graffiti artist and may be become a master piece. Finally, graffiti should be considered art because it is beautiful and an expressive way to show off a talent.