



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Stand Alone

New School



Plot and Ideas

The narrative establishes a plot while incorporating some description to situate the conflict or central idea (“A time when I felt all alone was when I moved and had to start a new school in the middle of the year”). The details begin to build toward a climax and a resolution (“After a while I started to feel like I belonged at this school”).



Development and Elaboration

Characters are introduced (“One day a student in my English class and I got paired up to work together”), but are not fully developed throughout the rest of the narrative. Some dialogue is used to add to the narrative, but further elaboration would enhance the writing.



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative includes a sequence of events that attempts to establish a beginning, middle, and end. Some transitions are used to develop the plot (“one day,” “after a while,” and “all in all”), but more could have been used to signal shifts in time or setting.



Language and Style

Descriptive words and sensory language are present in an attempt to convey setting and characters. The writing tries to engage readers and build voices for the characters, but the language is basic and inconsistent throughout (“If so your not the only one”).



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.

Stand Alone



New School

Have you ever felt different from people around you? If so you're not the only one. A time when I felt all alone was when I moved and had to start a new school in the middle of the year.

"Honey we are moving for your dad's new job," my mom said one day. I was so devastated. I did not want to leave my friends behind. "No, please don't make me go" I cried, but we ended up moving anyway. The first month I felt more alone than ever. Everyone at my new school already knew each other, and I was just all by myself.

People weren't mean to me, but they definitely weren't friendly either. "Hey new kid" some would say and walk on by me, but they wouldn't even take the time to get to know my name or anything about me. I missed my old friends so much.

"How is school?" my parents would ask after school.

"Fine" I'd always say back, but I didn't tell them how alone I felt. This went on for a month like I said.

One day, a student in my English class and I got paired up to work together. At first we didn't even want to talk to each other. But then we discovered that we both liked reading the same books and watching the same tv shows.

"Hey do you wanna sit with me and my friends at lunch?" she asked after class.

"Yes I'd love to" I said back. That day I became more social and got to know some of my classmates.

After a while I started to feel like I belonged at this school. All in all, when I moved I thought I would feel alone forever, but thanks to a new friend, that feeling went away.