



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

A Story About Laughter

Laughing



Plot and Ideas

The storyline is incomplete. The exposition neither supports the establishment of the plot ("It's a proven fact that people feel better when they laugh") nor situates the conflict ("We crashed and fell"). The story attempts to include a resolution ("So that is a time when I laughed until I cried"), but it does not fully address the demands of the task.



Development and Elaboration

The narrative does not have an established, clear setting. There is no dialogue nor an attempt to develop the characters. Descriptions are minimal ("mom," "best friend," and "neighbor") and they do not help to reveal the theme of the story.



Organization and Sequencing

The essay is not organized in a narrative form, never establishing a beginning, middle, and end. Efforts at pacing are missing, and transitions and other narrative techniques are not used to signal shifts in time or setting. The narrative does not have a resolution that offers closure ("So that is a time when I laughed until I cried").



Language and Style

Sensory language is largely absent and descriptions of the setting and characters are minimal. A clear voice is not established for the narrator, as point of view shifts from second to third to first person.



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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Sometimes you laugh when something is funny and sometimes it's because someone else is laughing. It's a proven fact that people feel better when they laugh. My mom always says laughter is the best medicine and she's right. Like my best friend and I. We were riding bikes one time and she cut me off and we crashed and fell. She was laughing and I kind of hurt my knee but I just laughed too. The guy next door asked us if we were okay and we just sat there laughing. Like I snorted and everything. So that is a time when I laughed until I cried.



Notes
