



Proficient | Exemplar Essay

Choose Your Own Adventure

Extracurricular Activities



Clarity and Focus

The essay engages the audience and focuses on a central idea that is mostly clear (“An extracurricular activity that is important to me is band. Band is challenging, offers social interaction, and provides exercise”). The writer addresses the demands of the prompt.



Development

The central idea is developed using relevant facts and concrete examples (“The style of marching you will be doing is high step, which to some isn’t as hard, but when you have to be doing that for 1 or 2 miles, then it is harder than it looks”). The essay thoughtfully addresses the audience’s understanding of the topic by elaborating when necessary.



Organization

The essay uses an organizational structure and appropriate transitions (“to begin with,” “Additionally,” “Furthermore”) to make relevant connections between ideas. An introductory paragraph is present, and the concluding paragraph offers readers a sense of closure (“Participating in extracurricular activities is one of the joys of adolescence”).



Language and Style

A formal style is established and maintained, and sentence structure is appropriately varied. Language is generally precise and domain-specific (“social interaction,” “competitions,” “adolescence”) and addresses the complexity of the topic.



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



Extracurricular Activities

Having an extracurricular activity can be fun and can be beneficial in school, it is important to branch out and try new activities. An extracurricular activity that is important to me is band. Band is challenging, offers social interaction, and provides exercise.

To begin with, I like to play in the band because it gives me plenty to do and it also challenges me overtime we have to learn a new song. Music increases focus and it's fun. It teaches you to work as a team, builds social skills, and leadership skills. Additionally, one of the benefits is that it can help you gain many friends and be social. You are able to meet new friends because you are practicing with them and are playing music with them and traveling to competitions with them that you get to know a lot about them and that can help to meet them and hopefully stay friends with until high school.

Band is just like any other sport when it comes to marching. In band you have to stretch just like other sports because of the style of marching you have to do. The style of marching you will be doing is high step, which to some isn't as hard, but when you have to be doing that for 1 or 2 miles, then it is harder than it looks. Just like with a sport, it takes a lot of energy to do. Furthermore, many believe that marching band is not difficult, but once they see the time, effort, and energy that goes into it, they change their mind and realize that band can provide good exercise

Participating in extracurricular activities is one of the joys of adolescence. Physical activity, learning how to get along with others, and challenging yourself are skills needed by any successful person. I am lucky that I learned these important skills while being a proud band member and will always keep them for the rest of my life.