



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Mistakes Were Made

Everyone Makes Mistakes



Plot and Ideas

The narrative is incomplete (“He took something he shouldn’t of”). The exposition does not include the description that definitively establishes a central idea. Ideas only build on one another in a general way without building toward a climax and resolution (“Then he made it worse because he broke it”).



Development and Elaboration

The narrative does not have an established, clear setting. The characters are not adequately developed, with no dialogue and minimal description (“He realized that what he did was wrong” and “And so do i”). It remains unclear who did what and when.



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative does not contain a clearly articulated sequence of events. Efforts at pacing are not present. Transitions and other narrative techniques to signal shifts in time or setting are not included. A resolution that offers closure is attempted but very general (“Im always trying to think before I do stuff because its easier not to do something wrong then to fix it later”).



Language and Style

General words are consistently used (“something,” “it,” and “things”). Sensory language and figurative language are not used at all. The writing is not engaging and the reader is left to assume much of the narrator’s experiences. A clear voice for the narrator is never established. The point of view is not consistent; the narration shifts from “I” to “he” to “people” frequently.



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.

Mistakes Were Made



Notes

Everyone Makes Mistakes

Everyone makes mistakes, it's a fact of life. Many of those people learn from these mistakes and the ones who don't learn go through life making the same mistakes over and over again. Sometimes you learn from other peoples mistakes.

One person i know that learned from his mistake is my friend. He took something he shouldn't of. Then he made it worse because he broke it. They found out what he did somehow and he had to pay for it since it was broken and he couldn't return it. This meant that he didn't have the money to pay for some other things he really wanted.

He realized that what he did was wrong. And so do i. I'm always trying to think before I do stuff because its easier not to do something wrong then to fix it later.

Learning from your mistakes is important because if you don't learn from the mistakes you make then you'll just make the same mistake.