



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Stand Alone

Being Different



Plot and Ideas

The exposition does not support the development of the plot. A central idea is not established, also impeding any development toward the climax or resolution. Additionally, the plot and ideas do not stay focused on addressing the demands of the task.



Development and Elaboration

The narrative does not have a clear, established setting. Characters are introduced (“My older brothers call me a nerd and other names”), but they are not adequately developed. Minimal dialogue is included (“Why don’t you like sports”).



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative does not contain a sequence of events with a definite beginning, middle, and end. Few transitions are used to show connections between ideas or shifts in the setting. The writer attempts to create a resolution (“So, when my family is watching sports I feel different because I don’t have any interest in doing that”), but it does not give closure to the story.



Language and Style

Descriptive words are not used throughout this narrative. Sentences lack variety (“Sometimes they make fun of me and it feels bad and it hurts my feelings”), and the writing is not engaging. A lack of descriptive vocabulary and unique voice do not engage the reader.



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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Being Different

My family all loves to watch and play sports. I don't like sports. I don't like to play them or even watch them honestly. My brothers all love football but I'd rather read or listen to music. Sometimes they make fun of me and it feels bad and it hurts my feelings. My older brothers call me a nerd and other names when my parents aren't around just because I don't like to watch football with them. "Why don't you like sports" they ask. They don't know that some people just have different interests. So, when my family is watching sports I feel different because I don't have any interest in doing that.



Notes
