



ENE533

NeSA-Writing

2016

GRADE 8

Writing

Scoring Guide

Writing Topic

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY

Purpose

- Portrays people, places, or things with vivid details to help the reader create a mental picture of what is being described
- Involves the reader so that he or she can visualize what or who is being described
- Creates or conveys a dominant impression of what is being described through sensory details
- Can be objective or subjective

Organizational Pattern

- Introduction/Beginning
 - ✓ Establishes the purpose
 - ✓ Sets the tone for the overall impression
 - ✓ May begin with a general statement followed by more specific statements related to the purpose
- Body/Middle
 - ✓ Specific details, examples or reasons
 - ✓ Anecdotes or "narrative chunks" may serve as details or examples
 - ✓ Transitions connect the ideas in a logical way
 - ✓ Transitions assist the flow from paragraph to paragraph
 - ✓ No prescribed number of paragraphs
- Conclusion/End
 - ✓ Gracefully ends the essay
 - ✓ May include a restatement of the writer's opinion or the main idea
 - ✓ May summarize the information given in the body
 - ✓ Reader should have a sense that things are "wrapped up."

Ideas / Content

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All through my life one activity has always been written on all my calenders and all of my mom's planner; soccer. Ever since I was a tiny three year-old version of myself, I have played, and I still remember the way the cleats made me run faster than anybody else there. I could even run faster than the towering giants in enormous shin guards and humongous spiked shoes (back then I had no clue that they were called cleats). The ball stood still on the ground, silently waiting to be put it into motion. The difference is that, instead of tiny, three-year-old me kicking it made a foot or two, I can slam the ball across the entire field. The wind whooshing and swirling as the quilted plastic ball cuts through it like a hot knife through butter. The rush of a game is what really made me fall in love, and just a single pass is all it takes for you to be hooked.

The morning air rushes at my face, sending tiny daggers into my nose and cheeks. I tug my thermal headband down farther on my face as I half-listen the referee drone on about rules that I had heard a million times before. I crack my knuckles with my fingers, and the pop sounds out against the monotone half-hearted speech. Not really paying attention, I scan the field. The usual lush green grass is covered in a fine layer of frost as the midnight chill still haunts these fields. The trail of foot steps left behind from our stretching and warm-ups clearly showing the stomping and future scarring of that spot. The referee finishes and starts calling out names of my fellow teammates, my ears perk, listening for my name. Finally he calls me, for I always am last, and I rush down the line giving the traditional high-five to each teammate. The slapping of hands, and the cheers and jeers make me laugh. I wait for a few moments at the back of the line until I can go and get a quick drink of frigid water before learning my position, and my fate.

Then, the time comes, and we all step into a huddle and put our hands in. It seems like we all take in a collective breath as we wait for our goalie to start our cheer off. She comes over to our little group and makes sure that we all are here. She yells out *PRIMA ON THREE!* Then we all start screaming the words *ONE!* and I watch our faces go from happy and cheerful, to serious faces. The looks of anticipation make me quake with adrenaline. *TWO. THREE. PRIMA!* Making a huge cloud of gray mist into the bright morning air. The starting players run out onto the field, and I start jumping and running in place to keep warm. The other team takes the field, and then we prepare for the real battle to begin.

The referee walks into the middle of the field waving to his companions on either side of him. He then waves to our goalie and then to the opposing team's. The squeaking of his whistle fills the air with screeching sound, and our team kicks the ball off. Passing begins and we all play hard against the newborn light of today. The sun rises slowly, making my breath stand out even more against the cornflower blue sky. Waiting and watching for the ball is the trickiest part. The ball rolls off of the foot of a teammate and I rush to save it from the other team. I can feel the familiar weight of the ball as I quickly glance up the field trying to search through a sea of opposing black, for one white jersey. Across the field I notice someone wide open, and I take a leap of faith, and I launch the ball. It sails over everyone's head, and heads straight at the waiting girl. She receives it and takes it up. The parents on the side lines going insane, screaming at her to shoot the ball. Time seems to slow for me as I watch the ball leave her foot like a rocket and drive straight into the back of the net. Everyone goes crazy.

The rush of adrenaline has been and gone, and the sound of two whistles signal the end of a battle well fought. I walked off the field in disappointment, nobody wants a tie. I listen to my coach talk about formations and drills that we need to work on, and I start to wrestle off my cleats, then my socks and shin guards. I am listening intently because I know that I would be drilled on this on the car ride home. I could feel the warm afternoon sun on my face and I notice that I have finally started to warm-up. The chill always seems to be permanent, but it seems that day it wasn't. I had loved playing in that cold fall weather, and playing in those harsh conditions, whether it be burning hot or freezing cold. I will always love playing soccer.

Ideas/Content: 4

4-4-4-4

In this response a clear and vivid picture of a cool fall morning soccer game is described, and the content is well-focused on the sensory experiences the activity elicits. The writer has provided numerous and relevant sensory details that describe the soccer game experience and why it is so enjoyable. The writer has provided many vivid examples that enable the reader to feel like they are there, and to clearly understand why playing soccer is so special to the author.

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The Team's Greatest Benchwarmer

Overwhelming fans scream at the top of their lungs as the volleyball athletes line up in their positions waiting for the referees to tweet their whistles so the first serve can strike the other team. Nervousness shudders through me, until I observe our ball that sails deeply over the net smacking number nine square in the face. AWE A SAW BOOM, that's a point for us. In this paper I will illustrate the peaceful but rambunctious joy I receive when being a benchwarmer. Not caring what people think, I strain my voice to encourage my teammates so loud making my voice raspy but that won't stop me because it is a chance for me to escape my comfort zone. When the game is unsurprisingly intense sometimes I can't bear to watch. It keeps me on the tip of my seat chewing my nails like a starving beaver. I get so involved in cheering that I feel sweat drizzling down my forehead, I have to keep chugging down water to cool myself so I'm not too exhausted by the time I get to go into the real action.

Although sometimes I would rather play it safe and keep bum glued to the seat and my mouth running.

To start, getting out of my comfort zone is the best part about being a benchwarmer. Especially when I am a shy, timid girl that doesn't say much. I don't care who is frustrated or annoyed with me, I shout so loud that my voice overwhelms the other team, driving them to loose focus and loose points. It works a majority of the time. Getting out of my zone calms my teammates so they can have a little more fun and so the game doesn't feel so much like a job. About five minutes into the second set the players are hopping back and forth having the time of their life and my voice sounds like a raspy raspberry or even a talking snake. It feels amazing to be able to not have a care in the world and give something all that I have wrapped in my hands. Loosing my voice to my girls is definitely worth it. Being a benchwarmer is the best way to exit my comfort zone and all the games keep me on the edge of the bench.

In addition of leaving comfort spot by yelling and screaming, I become anxious when the plays are tight and when we are loosing control. It's hard to watch. I contain myself through tearing my nails one by one and keeping my heels off the ground and toes light in ready position. I am ready to sprint after the ball but morosely I can't. I intently follow the ball with my peering

eyes patiently waiting for the ball to be spiked down by my team. The couches always do their best to encourage the athletes to do their best and to stay focused. Some get a little more excited then others. During these times I say few words so they concentrate and I can save myself from loosing my voice completely. I do honestly enjoy being on the tip of my chair when the sets are close. It keeps me occupied and it also proves that both teams are working hard. Whoever won that point, it was well earned, and these sets are the greatest to watch. I believe that winning the hard point is way more honorable than winning the easy serve. Even loosing the tough set is honorable because you put up a fight.

After all the cheering and anxiety attacks I am exhausted. I can feel sweat tickle my skull as it drizzles down through my hair. I drink a gallon of water like a crazy horse that just completed a mail delivery during the Pony Express ages to sooth my dry rashed throat. I do my best to cool myself down just incase if the coach decides to put me in the game for a spin. I wouldn't want to be subbed in while being to tired to function. That would be an embarrassment to my team mates, my coach, and me if I failed to get the ball that was right in front of me. I can just see myself panting like a dog trying to get some fresh air after being sat on by an elephant. Maybe it would be best if I sat out if I can't control myself in that case. Only sowing my mouth shut can stop me cheering for my sisters on the court.

The sum of escaping the comfort zone to be loud and obnoxious, the excitement of a close game, and me getting my work out for the day is one of the greatest activities I love doing. Although I do love playing volleyball but I don't get to play much I truly enjoy being a benchwarmer. It is like my own individual sport that I am the champion at. I will do everything in my power to encourage my team mates to keep pushing on so I can see a smile on their face at the end of the day. This is why being a bench warmer is my favorite activity.

Ideas/Content: 4

4-4-4-3

In this response a clear and vivid picture of being on the bench at a volleyball game is described. The content is well-focused on the topic and the reader clearly understands why the writer enjoys supporting the team and being a benchwarmer. Numerous sensory details are used to describe the activity and the writer skillfully creates colorful images of what it would look like and feel like to be sitting on the bench next to them.

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What I enjoy most is playing sports, inside of school or out. The main sports I play/do are football, wrestling, and baseball. Sometimes i like to add in a new "sport" or two, like track, bowling, and ect. Sports that nig crpwds are not attracted too, or that they're not serious sports. "freetime" sports is what i like to call them! I like to go by the bigger the better, or the harder the better. Sports are my life, it's my passion. It's what keeps me out of trouble. Sports to me is a year round cycle, starting with football, then wrestling, finally come to the end of the cycle with baseball!

My sports cycle starts with football in summer starting with conditioning, then contact in august. Football is where i take out my anger, and no happy soul should be walking off the field unless it's a player off of my team. Football is what keeps me out of trouble most of the time or at least it keeps me from beating someone or something up! When someone says football i think hard hitting. Football is one of the hardest contact sport. When I think of cotact and hard hitting, nothing but joy comes to my mind! when i walk out of the tunnel and take the feild its like walking onto a land of paradise, with a world of hurt awaiting for me to discover! Night games are the games i enojoy best, as you can see the gazing lights off of the helmet and the reflection off of the nike dual visors! To play football or be a coach you must be clever! A coach is the genius of football, you have to be able to call the right plays, if you dont it could ruin lives by losing a championship! that one play could help you when that championship it's all about whose more clever which coach has more guts to take a risk. Just by watching the coaches and the games i enojoy! These are the reasons i enjoy football, the challenge is what i like the most!

Wrestling is the second part of my tri-cycle, wrestling is all about dedication. Soon as football is over it's wrestling time, and wrestling time means go time. By go time i mean its time to work hard and get condition, and most defiently get stronger in parts we are weaker at! i've been wrestling for 9 years, this is my 10th! I've learned from past experiences that you must maintain a healthy diet, low carbs and at maximum 1,000 colories a day! most people ask why do you enjoy this? in response i would say this keeps me out of trouble and life is all about dicipline and it's getting me rady for the real world and if it means to continue wrestling i'm willing to continue it for my passion! Just like football wrestling is in connection too, all about physical contact but a different type of contact! it's like a who can hurt the other person more or drive the other person so far they want to give up! and thats what i like to do, when i hear a little wimp on the mat crying because he just got put into the banana split or the spladdle, that means they shouldnt be wrestling or nued to train! i've trained for so many hours and have been destroyed as a kid and still today by national or world champions that my body is imune to being hurt! This sport is all about hard work, and healthy diets. My body also has imune to becoming hungary with a couple days without eating. Green beans and bacon bits is life during wrestling season! Wrestling is all about blood, sweat, hard work, healthy dieting, deterimination and all of these means dedication!

The last sport on my tri-cycle of sports is baseball, which is all about stradigy! Baseball is where i enojoy my self most even if it is the sport where the most pressure is put on me! i feel like im more free in the open space and that i can hit the ball far as i want without going to get it! Baseball is all about fundamentals and cleveriness. where to place the ball as a pitcher when your down in the count, or when the batters bat is high, thinking inside your head as your mind races, inside or out, change up or a 3-4 curve what do i throw you think. Not me my mind calms down and i feel no pressure! i calmy whisper to my self and think for my grandma i want her to be proud! Baseball is also about hard work and the more dedication you put into it the better you are going to be. the way you practice is the way you play, i show up to my practice in game mode even tho its practice! these are the reasons i enojoy baseball!

These are the sports i play and what i enjoy doing. Sports is my passion, if i didn't have sports i'd be doing stupid things, and wouldn't really have a carrer path because i'd be so boared. i'm not saying that i'm forced to do sports but it's my passion. my coaches have taught me so many life skills. Sports is my life ad it is what i enjoy doing!

Ideas/Content: 3

3-3-4-3

The picture of what is being described is generally clear in this response about a year of sports activities. The content is generally focused on the topic of the three sports the writer participates in during a year, but had the essay concentrated on, and developed the idea of a single activity or sport, the content would have had a sharper focus, with far more details and description, and the picture of what was being described would have been clearer and more vivid. While the sensory details provided in the description are relevant and adequate, they are not numerous for any of the three activities.

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"Orlando has the spherical ball now-Commentating to myself- He moves at the pace of black spotted jaguar, easily tearing off opponents. the 14 year old goes for the cross. Beautifully delivered, Its Angels turn to lower it. He jumps like a cat that is being taunted with a feather; all to lower the white and black ball. Running now at lightning speeds. He's in the box now; can he lock it in. He's going for it. #7 with a shot-BOOM-What a goal. Right where the birds make there nest, upper ninety. All I can say is, Magisterial."

Soccer, or football as it is known around the world, originated from Rugby. The Federation international of Football Association (FIFA), make the rules, competitions, and give awards to Professional players. This sport is the most internationally watched, played, and talked about.

Walking on a big rectangular field with freshly trimmed green grass, with repainted lines, yellow netted goals, and two fit teams both with boldly colored outfits, so they can be seen from a mile away. One brightly lit sky bulb heats the field. A light summer breeze flow makes a path through your hair to refresh you from the heat and brings a smell of grass and perfume from some of the spectators. In the Bench, six or seven substitutes from each team warm the bench. waters, colored sport drinks, and bookbags at there feet. The coach in their late thirties, mid forties remind the team of the plan. As the tall mid thirties ref, wearing a yellow with black striped shirt, black shorts, black socks, and cleated shoes; holding a round, red and green brazuca ball approaches the kick off zone, both teams get into formation. After the ref positions the spherical object for kick off, he slowly walks away while communicating a gesture to start. This is the beginning of a perfect game.

Although playing the game is fun, watching can make your stomach churn, your head turn upside down and ruin friendships. Big events like the World Cup, classic team rivals, and games that test your favorite team happen all around the world. Crowds show their surge of emotion threw cheering, wearing their teams uniform, colorful vuvuzelas, and commitment to their team. Through the T.V screen you can see weeks of practice on the pitch/ field. Teams going back and forth. Until one has more class, and scores.

This is why love Football. Anything can happen. Your team, all different sizes, different cultures, and different points of view is like a second family. We came together to enjoy what football is. The sensation of anxiety, impatience, satisfaction, and importance can all strike at any time. This train of emotions make the game interesting. That is why I love football; My favorite activity.

Ideas/Content: 3

3-3-3-3

The picture of what is being described is generally clear in this response about soccer. The content is generally focused on the topic and the sensory details describing the activity are adequate and related, but not numerous. Adequate details regarding the game of soccer have been included so that the reader gets a sense of the writer's enthusiasm for the sport.

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December 17, 2014

all my hobbies

hanging with freinds, walking around town, and scootering is some of the things i like to do on my free time. everything i do is fun and sometimes is good, most of the time its bad tho. the reason why i like to do all these things is because it helps get things of my mind and it gives us exersize

First is hanging with freinds. When im chilling with freinds i like to walk around town, Most of the time we just walk and talk or go to someones house. When im with my freinds we always call someone, If its my sister, Our freinds or just someone in our contacts on our phone. Another thing we like to do i prank call people, We just type in a random number and hopefully someone will answer to mess with. Most of the time we tell jokes laugh and have a great old time. this is hanging with freinds. sometimes we play video games, We mostly play gra or cod but if were not playing games were either walking around or watching a movie, When im at a freinds house we mostly never sleep unless we have something going on or just have to leave early.

Next is walking around. sometimes i like to walk around town, Most of the time im with a freind because we get bored and want to do something or were going to someones house. When i walk around town i get alot of exersize. when im with freinds we always walk around because our parents dont wanna take us anywhere and we wanna go so we just walk their and get what we need. Most of the time we always go to hartwell and walk around the collage or just the pond thats their. most of the time when i walk by myself i always go downtown. Its more fun to walk down town cause theirs more to go to down their, Like stores shops and alot of other places we can go their. I like to go walking with my brother but most of the time we ride a scooter or a bike, My brothers kinda lazy. its fun to walk around when its really hot out in the summer cause its easier than walking in the cold. When were not walking we sometimes ride, I ride my scooter and he rides his long board or bike, whoever im hanging with at the moment. This is walking around.

Last is riding scooter. I love riding scooter, Its probably my favorite hobby that i have, I most of the time ride in front of my house because i cant go anywhere but when i can go somewhere its mostly the skatepark. Im better at verde than i am at street, Some people say thats its the, that im good at both but i think im better at verde. when im with freinds we sometimes ride but im one of the only people in my group of freinds that scooters, its not as much fun hanging with them when im the only one that scooters. When i got my scooter ive always named all my prized pesasions. My scooter is a she and everybody knows her name thats in 8th grade, some people dont but alot of them do. i named my scooter maddy because my scooter is a mngp which is a semi pro scooter but i still love if and will probanly never get rid of. ive gone threw so many wheels with that scooter and will probably go threw alot more. She is out of order right now because i broke a axel in the back wheel and now i need to buy a new axel thats gonna cost me 10 to 15\$ but i love that scooter so much money doesnt even count for me. this was my favorite hobby scootering.

It doesnt matter if its hanging with freinds walking around town or just riding my scooter at the skatepark, I love doing my hobbies and will do them all threw out my school years.

Ideas/Content: 2

2-3-2-2

In this response about hanging out with friends, walking around town, and riding a scooter, the picture of what is being described is limited in all three of the activities. The sensory details needed to describe the activities so that the reader can feel like they are there are somewhat missing and the description is incomplete and unclear. The content is not focused on a particular activity, and the writer has presented three completely separate ideas that are somewhat unrelated. While the reader gets a sense of why the writer enjoys these activities, more development of ideas and a more detailed description would be needed for a higher score.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

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12/16/14

Well I like doing a lot of things everyday. I'm a kid with a lot of energy that likes running around. One thing I like doing after school is texting my friends if they want to meet up at the park to have some fun. Most of the time they say yes. When I'm at the park I feel free because I could run and be with my friend longer. When I'm at the park I take my little sister with me. We have lots of fun.

Another thing I like doing would be drawing. Drawing calms me down a lot when I'm sad or mad. The reason I think it calms me down would be because I could draw all my feelings there. So when I'm mad I draw the reason I'm mad or sad.

I'm not the best painter but at least I try and like doing it. Draw is a really fun and easy thing for me to do so I enjoy doing it.

Something I love doing would be dancing. I'm not a sport type. So my sport is dancing. I don't know why I enjoy dancing so much. When ever I hear music I just get in that dancing mood, that you have to dance. I think the reason I like dancing so much is because I have it in my blood. The reason of that is because my mom and dad are some amazing dancer. Two of my other sisters enjoy dancing.

I like being with my friends. My friends are so funny they make my day. I love the friends I have and I would never want to change them for anything. Two of my girl best friends would be Lizbeth and Alexandra. They make me laugh all the time. One of my guy best friends would be Killian he is like my brother to me.

Last thing I enjoy doing would be going to partys. Partys make me in a good mood. You dance in party another reason I like partys. I usually go with my cousins. I love how partys have so much happy people there. Everyone at partys are so happy.

Those are things I really enjoy doing. What do you like to do, we might like the same things. I forgot to put something else I love doing my makeup. :)

Ideas/Content: 2

2-2-2

A limited picture of an activity has been described in this response. The writer has presented a somewhat undeveloped list of ideas, none of which are adequately developed or described in detail to enable the reader to clearly picture what is being described. Some digressions from the topic are evident with the introduction of unrelated details and information. While the writer has attempted to show why they enjoy all of these activities, sensory details are few and limited and the content is not adequately focused or developed for an adequate description.

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BASKETBALL

Basketball is a good sport to play. It is important that you pay attention. You have to pay attention so that you can learn how to play.

We have basketball practice everyday. During basketball practice we shoot hoops for a while then we do layups. After we do that we play 3 on 2. After we play 3 on 2 we play 5 on 5 on 5.

The rules for basketball are important to know. The first rule is that you can not travel. The second rule is that you can not double dribble. The third rule is that you can not foul out. There are many rules to follow.

The important things about games is that you can sub in for a team mate. It is important to know where you are going. It is important that you do not foul out. It is really important that you do not get hurt in a game. It is important to win all games.

It is important to know these things. These things are important to remember for next year. It is also a good thing to cheer on your team.

Ideas/Content: 1

1-2-1-1

The picture of what is being described is unclear in this response. While the brief content is somewhat focused on basketball, sensory details describing the activity are missing and the ideas lack the necessary development to show the reader what the activity looks and feels like. The reader has little understanding as to why the writer enjoys basketball, as the response has mostly failed to provide any descriptive writing.

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My favorate activity is playing video games because the texture of the system controller the sound of the video game and just the smell of pizza when i play games puts a whole new expirience playing games is so much fun my favorate game is minecraft because its a survival game and i can make awesome creations like boat,house and a village anything you want to build its your choice. i love playing games when i have friends over we go build a big house its fun

Ideas/Content: 1

1-1-1-1

In this brief response about playing video games, the picture of what is being described is unclear. While the writer seems to have attempted a sensory description of the texture, sounds and smell of a video game, the content lacks development of any ideas or descriptive information, and sensory details are lacking.

Organization

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17 December 2014

Couch Surfing

Couch surfing—a hobby passed down from great kings, now for only a few to partake it in, is an excellent activity. Couch surfing is just what it seems—sitting on a couch all day, but in reality, there's so much more you can do while on a couch. On a couch, you can do anything—nonproductive things, productive things, and everything in between. It's a world of possibilities, and anyone can do it. Some of the most fun things to do, however, are a little nonproductive.

Surfing the interwebs and catching up on your dramas may not benefit society in the least— but they're still fun! Netflix is the holy grail for couch surfers— an array of shows, some foreign, some not, some serious, some ridiculously funny. To be a true Nexflix Monarch means to be a true couch surfer. They're also thousands of channels on a regular old tv, and with a remote in hand a person could truly ascend mere mortality when braving this blizzard of shows and movies. Couch surfing isn't all about the tv, though— you can spend hours online— shopping, blogging, or doing whatever. Youtube videos can make you laugh, pictures of puppies can make you cry, and you can find both in abundance on the internet. When you're a couch surfer, it's okay to cry over a fictional character's death because you haven't interacted with real people in weeks! While none of these aspects of couch surfing are productive, there are some that are—well, kind of.

Reading, writing, drawing—they all have at least *some* value, and are some of the things to do when couch surfing, and may even be a little productive! Reading a book in one sitting? Easy. Not crying over finishing it? Not so easy. Sitting down, getting a beverage, and reading a good book, it may make couch surfing seem like it's not as socially unacceptable as most think it is. You can also attempt to draw, though getting the skill to draw well means sacrificing all your self-worth. Writing, which is fun when *it's not forced*, is an excellent way to waste time when couch surfing, and it makes time just fly by. Using social media to chat with friends is a great way to socially interact (for once) when couch surfing, and talking the day away with the people you love is never, ever a waste. Some activities in couch surfing are a little bit beneficial, and others are what make you able to literally spend the entire day on the couch.

Now, while you obviously need to go to the bathroom *sometimes*, almost everything else can be easily done while on a couch. While eating on a couch *may* get a little messy, eating is a necessity, and with a plate and some napkins, the mess shouldn't be that big of a problem. That is, unless you have greedy little pets. Pets will take as much space on a couch as they want, even if they are small. The benefits are tremendous, as petting animals make a baby smile for the first time somewhere around the world, and sometimes they're just *so fluffy*: that's it's difficult to get mad at them for gobbling up your couch lunch. You can also snuggle up with them and a few warm blankets for a nap, because couch naps are superior to regular naps. And after that nap, with the leftover blankets, building an ultimate couch fort is as easy as pie. A fort and a couch are a duo that can't be beaten, and make any couch activity ten times as fun. While staying on the couch is fun, it's always important to go to the bathroom frequently and throw away trash, because a dirty fort is a fort no person should have to suffer in. All these things make couch surfing so much simpler, and maybe even a little more enjoyable.

Couch surfing, an activity worshipped by nerds and praised by the socially unacceptable, is a thing anyone can do, and effortlessly! It's filled to the top with potential, and is in no way tiresome. With nonproductive or productive things to do, and everything else in between, nothing is stopping you. A world of possibilities, a haven for laziness, couch surfing is an extraordinarily fun thing to partake in. Best of all, you don't even have to leave your couch to do it.

Organization: 4

4-4-4-4

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is effective in this response about couch surfing. An effective introduction along with well-planned transitional phrases at the end of each paragraph, effectively connect the main ideas together. Pacing is well-controlled throughout the response, as each idea effectively connects to the next with a well-planned, logical progression of ideas. Paragraphing is sound.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

Cross Country more like Life

It was the beging of my seventh grade and confusion about everything was still noticeable. The air was drier than a cats tounge after a nap and the weather was like we were living in satans armpit. I always rember thinking "Why did I sign up for this? It's basicaly a death wish!" You see I wasn't the most athletic person and I'm pretty sure that a snail could beat me in just about every sport. "Two minutes!" Some girl yelled. I was ready to go out and face the rest of the people on the cross country team. When I got out there the feeling of dread consumed me. It paralyzed me so much that I practically had to be draged to the flag pole. When we started I'm not even sure what I had to worry about I realized that all I had to do is be myself and try my best and I would be expected.

I remember the first meet of that I've ever been to was total caous. It was as if someone let loose a bunch of rabid dog and it was everyone for themselves. But what I also remeber is the feeling of runing. The feeling of my lungs on fire and my legs moving steadily as if I was a well oiled machine. I remember felling free as the wind slapped my face as I ran to victory. I also can't forget the feeling of determination and joy as I steadily ran past others. The one thing I hated was how it all came to a crashing stop in the end. The feeling of total exshashten as I lugged my bags back to the car. Lastly the nagging feeling dissapointment of how I could've done better punching me in the gut. But these feelings and many more kept me pushing on and making this such an activity that I loved.

This year I was so excited to start cross country again. Sure I liked to run just by myself but runing with a team against others makes it so much more exciting. This year was different however, instead of satans armpit greeting me as a faced the outside world it was more like a gentle wisper of summer breeze. Everything was a bit weird also, the meeting place was changed, many of the practices I loved were moved and some cut out all together. However all these still couldn't change my love for the physicaly damanding sport. The meet I remeber the most from this year was the one hosted at my school. The weather was nasty as the bitter cold attacked any part of your body that was not covered up. It was the only time I thought I hated cross country, but of course I knew I still loved it.

At every meet I've been to there are always cheers coming from everywhere. People bunched up on the sidelines and narrowly advoided being hit by the runners. At times I just wanted them to shut up just so I could run in peace for once. One sound that was always consistate even when the people were gone was my labored breaths. Sometimes if I ran too hard I would almost sound inhuman. That never stoped me however it just made me push through it. After runing wether it be at a meet or just at practice the team would be all sweaty and gross. Let me tell you we smelled worse than any garbage factory in the world. This is mostly because there is always that couple people who forget their deoterant and then the whole team has to suffer through the stench. This made me always aprechiate the luxery of indoor showers.

Cross country brought many good and bad things into my life but at the end of the day I know I loved every minute of it. The tears, the laughs, and the unique people will never be forgotten and will hold a place in my heart. I hope I will be able to continue this sport into highschool because if I couldn't I wouldn't know what to do with my time. Cross country is something that makes me feel free and welcomed and I would never change it for the world. The only thing I would change is the odor of middle schoolers afer running their heart out. Seriously though if everything wera to change I dont know if it would be so memerable to me. If you ever want to join a sport or activity for that matter I highly suggest cross country, I promise you won't regret it.

Organization: 4

4-4-4-3

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is effective in this response about cross country running. An effective and engaging introduction sets up the main theme of the essay and pacing is well-controlled throughout the response as each idea moves to the next in a logical, somewhat chronological progression of ideas. Transitions effectively show how ideas connect and the paragraphing is sound.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

The sound off hoves in the distance can you hear the bull comming dow the run way. From the moment your step on the rodeo ground to the second you step off it an adventure. The smells are amazing rosin and dirt fill you lungs as if it was a drug you are addictive to I just love the smell. When I step out of our pickup it's go time I grab my bag off out the back seat just a perfect as I left it. I throw the straps over my shulder being careful I don't cruch my American cowboy hat and walk over to where I will hang my chaps and bullope.

I have to pay if I want to ride so I go over to the check in office and pay my money to here which I don't know if I will ever get back. Bull Riding is just like gambling you never know if you are going to win. You just have to have that mind set that you can ride any bull that runs under you because your the best bullrider to ever walk this earth. Once my entry fees are paid up I go back over to the fence where I put my bag.

I first get out my chaps and a protective vest and hang them on the fence. After I get that out I get out my riding boot they might look beat up to you but to me they are perfectly fine. Once my boot are out I put them out and put them on. I am almost done but I put my spurs on they help me get a a hold with my feet. Last but sertenly not least I put my rope on the fence. Now that I am done putting on my gear I grab my saddle soap and rub the soap up and down my rope to get it sticky now come the rosin it combines with the the saddle saop to make a really sticky glue.

Now that all my done with getting my gear ready I got back to the the check in office to see what I drew. To make it fair the judges put all the bull numbers in a hat and draw tham one by one. Acordingly to how the bullriders show up is haw the determine what bull is by there name rember they drew the bull and listed them. Lets say I was the fifth ridder so what ever bull was drew fifth thats the bull I got.

Once I found out what bull I got I usually go over to see what one I got if I haven't had him before. I usually know what bull h have but there is some times I don't know. So I go over there and look at him see who owns him and asks what he does. Know that I know what he does I go back to my bag and rosin my rope again. After that I put my boot ties on they help me so my boot don't fall off. Now it is usually about time so I get my chaps and vest on.

The backpen helper load my bull in the chute so I put my rope on the bull. After that my blood is pumping I tape my glove on my hand put my helmet on my head (I where a helmet so if I get kicked in the face I won't die). They call my name I get ready to get down in the chute on my bull. When I am on my bull I have someone to pull my rope. After that is all done I go take my rope where I put rosin on it and rap it around my hand one time and slide up on my rope. I nod my head and the gateman opens up the gate.

Once the bull is out of the chute the whole world stops. The only thing that moves is me and the bull the only thing that I am worried about is that I ride this bull jump for jump. I hear the buzzer so I pull my rap ang jump of the bull to the right side and run to the fence. Once at thee fence I hear my score. Not all ride go like this some times I get bucked off. Still after the bull is out of the arena I walk out.

Now I put my rope on the fence and start putting it away just as I got got it out first chaps and vest. Then I put my rope my on the fence and get a wire brush to clean it off. Once it is all done I put it in my bag and take off my riding boots and put on my good boots. Once all of my gear is put away I go Back to the check in office and see if I have won any money of a buckle. This only happens if I ride my bull and the judges think it was a good ride.

By now It is time so I put my gearr back in the pickup and I go to the motel room get some sleep and do it all again next bullriding.

Organization: 3

3-3-3-2

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is functional in this response about a bull riding activity. Pacing is generally controlled as the writer takes us through the events leading up to the riding of the bull in the arena. The progression of ideas is organized chronologically, and the various activities are connected using appropriate transitional words and phrases. Paragraphing is generally successful.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

How do you express yourself? I express myself with music all around me, blasting. Moving across the floor having the time of my life. Working for an hour and a half or fifty minutes. To express myself, I dance!

First of all, there is a lot you have to know and do. You have to be able to do leaps. You have the left and right leg, also splits, center, another split, reverse, and swith leaps. You also have turns. You have to master the double pureret, and alsacones. There is a lot to take in at once. Also you have to keep up with the music. My dance studio does 8 counts to the music, and you have to keep to that beat.

Next you have all of the sights, smells, and sounds. There is the aroma of hard work and sweet. You also have the smell of candle that my teacher puts out. You've got the blasting music to dance to that your teacher is trying to figure out. Then there is always the sight of girls doing leaps, turns, jumps, and tricks. You also see the dances of the girls. The dance studio is a great place to be.

Then there is are many reasons why I love it. I always have fun doing it. I can express myself in so many ways. There are so many fun things to do in the studio. Plus you make some amzing friends. at first you are scared, but then you get friends and have an amazing time.

With out the studio I would be completely lost. I get to express myself when I go there. I get to see different things, smell new smells and hear new songs. Also I get to have fun with my friends. There are a number of activites out there, but dance is my favorite.

Organization: 3

2-3-2-2

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is functional in this response about dance. Functional transitions are adequate but not effective. Pacing is generally controlled and paragraphing is generally successful. A brief, but adequate, summary conclusion restates the three main ideas of the essay and reiterates why dance is an enjoyable activity.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

Something I like to do is eat out with my family. When i eat out with my family we usually go to Golden corral. My mom will pay for our dinner and we will walk in and find a place to sit down. As my mom is finding a table for us to sit in I see an chocolate and a Vanilla flowing fountain. I see the steam of the hot food rising into the air making the air smell like delicious fries and pizza and Steak and the other foods. We finally get to our seats we take of our coats and puts them on the back of the brown black cushioned metal chairs. Then we walk and we grab a salmon color plate. I walk around observing all the foods thinking about what i want to get. Suddenly I see some round light brown crispy onion rings. I take the silver tongs and scoop some up and stash them on my plate. Then i will walk over to the stake ordering station and say "Well Done please". Then he will cut open some of the stakes to see if he sees red then he will find a whole cooked one and hold it up for me to see if its good enough. Then i will take the stake and i will go get an little white paper container and put my ranch in there.

Then i will go back to my seat and i will see my little sister and brother eating their food. So i go and sit down a seat down from my sister at the end of the table. Then i see my mom and brother walk by and sit down. I start to grub on my food i start eating my crisp onion rings. I here alot of people talking and laughing and the slurping sound of my sister drinking her bright red fruit punch. My older brother sitting acrossed from me eating and scanning through his white samsung phone at the same time and my mom eating her salad and telling my littl brother he can go get desert. Then i take my steak and dip it in my ranch. Then I take a big bite of my stake and and enjoy the wonderful delicious taste of the juicy stake. Finally when im all done with my food i go up for dessert . I get an ice cream cone and make a swirly topping of ice cream and some brown delicious chocolate cookies. Then my mom asks if we are done eating and we say "Yea". Then we all stand up and walk ou the resturant.

Organization: 2

3-2-3-2

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is limited in this response about eating out at the Golden Corral. While the events of the evening are presented in a somewhat logical order, the ideas are not well-connected and weak and repetitive transitions are evident throughout the essay. Pacing is somewhat inconsistent. Paragraphing is somewhat ineffective as the entire response seems to be a simple list of all the things the writer did that evening at the restaurant.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

December 17, 2014

There is this one thing that i do everyday and that is go outside. I love being outside. I try to go out side as much as i can. No matter what i am always outside for at least an hour everyday. The sites, feelings, and tastes are great. Being outside is my favorite thing to do.

The sites outside are beautiful and amazing. There are so many things to do outside. When i go outside i ride my bike and my scooter, sometimes i will just sit on the swing and be on my phone. When I have friemds over we usually go outside and we play badmit, football, and go to the skate park. In the summer we swim at the pool or in my pool, or jump on the trapoline. Some other things to see are kids, adults, bricks, sheds, houses, stores, grass, grills, a birdie fling in the air when we play badmit, totes, fences, gardens, golf balls, darts, swing sets, trees, bebe guns, bebe's, toy guns, and happy children playing. There are many wonderful sites to see outside. There are so many great feelings when your outside. When your outside you can feel the cool air blowing against your face. Also on somedays you will feel the warm and hot air against your face. When my friemds and I are outside we feel happy, and joyful. Somedays it will be really hot outside and others not so much. These are just a few of the feelings there are many more but these are the top feelings i feel.

The taste of the food we make outside on the grill is amazing. We make steak, chicken and patoes out on the grill. Also when were outside we sneak into the garage and find the cookies. Lastly we usually bring a jar of penut butter outside and eat it, but sometimes we have a food fight and through it at each other. There are many great tastes to taste outside.

This is the one place i go everyday no matter what.I love being outside.

Organization: 2

2-2-2-2

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is limited in this response about being outside. While a basic functional organizational structure that focuses on the sights, feelings and tastes of being outside seems to have been attempted, the introductory transitions are weak or missing, and each of the three main body paragraphs is a list of ideas with few if any transitions connecting the ideas. There is little organization evident within each of the paragraphs, and the details are often presented as a simple undeveloped list of examples. Pacing is inconsistent and paragraphing is irregular as the content that supports each of the three main ideas is often somewhat repetitive or unrelated to the main ideas. A weak conclusion is evident.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

My favorite activity to do with my family is to go to pow-wows. My sister was a princess for Freshmen, Junior, and in Lincoln. My mom makes her dress. My sister had a baby so she had to give up the title. I really like the drums, how there made of cow skin, and sometimes they decorate it with a painting of a dream catcher. I like the dancers the best, that's how my sister became a Pow-Wow princess. I really like the way the dancers dress, the beads are beautiful like two rainbows. They all use different bead colors. They use black, blue, orange, red, yellow, purple, etc... My favorite part is the dancing. I especially like the fancy dancers, they spin around sometimes they turn half way then they go the other way. There are tons of dances, fancy dance, sun dance, grass dance, rabbit dance, traditional dance, etc... The men and women do different dances, both of them do traditional dances, but the men do fancy dance, rabbit dance, and other dances that are kind of hard to do. Women do grass dance, and other dances that are easy. When I am in High School I'm going to start dancing/play the drums. If I dance I'm going to Fancy Dance. What I get out of Pow-Wows is that I get to spend time with my brothers, sister, cousins, friends, my mom and dad, my nephew, and my grandma. I always get the Funnel cake, Snow-Cones, and the Chili-cheese Fri's. Before I go to the Pow-Wow I help my grandma sell her food. After were done selling food we head to the Pow-Wow. The Pow-Wows only go for three days. Pow-Wows always make me go to sleep when I get home. So when I wake up in the morning I'm happy because I sleep good. The Pow-Wow effects me by making me go to sleep better, and I get full from all the food. It effects others the same way. Sometimes I get sick and it hurts badly than I can't go to sleep, than that effects my little brother, and grandma because they can't sleep because I keep on making noises. Than I stay home from school the next day than that effects my grades. Those are the reasons I like Pow-Wows, and I really like to spend my time with my family at Pow-Wows.

Organization: 1

2-1-2-2

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is lacking in this response about going to a pow-wow. A somewhat random and unorganized list of ideas has been presented, and transitions connecting the ideas are missing or unclear. Pacing is awkward, and paragraphing is missing. A weak ending that is somewhat contradictory and digresses from describing the activity as an enjoyable event is evident.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

rodeo is my favoret thaing to do in jub: thats when all my frinds come for the kids rodeo thats when i git to fight steers
and do ropeing with my cousins and we have fun all the time braking horses and wresting goates and shooting birds
and in the winter we do winter stufe andthin it,SCHOOL!!! my wrst night mear : (eksetra eksetrea eksetrea ya this
is boring typing this after this i am going home and playing roblox and listening to country music well good by.

Organization: 1

1-1-1-1

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is lacking in this brief response about the rodeo. This minimal response has little or no evidence of any organizational structure. Paragraphing and transitions are missing and connections are unclear.

Voice / Word Choice

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

S
t
y
1 / December 2014
Baseball

In this universe that God created there are many amazing and wonderful things. But the one thing I love the most is baseball. Baseball has shaped our nation, and been our national pastime for over 140 years. It has been with us through all of the hardships in our country, such as the Civil War, World War 1, The Great Depression, World War 2, and the Vietnam War. Through all of these rough times, baseball has been an outlet for people to get away from all of them. I adore baseball because of its pure history, riveting sounds, and the wonderous sights it brings, which I will mention first.

Baseball's sights are some of the most heartmoving on this great planet Earth. Metal bats sit in racks on the fence, waiting to be picked up to be swung. Leather gloves are on baseball player's hands, waiting for their moment to shine, and to catch that ball they've been wanting since they were first made. Player's shirts are sweat-stained from all of the hard work, but they love it, for why else would they be here? Their pants are also dirty from sliding hard on the basepaths, doing anything and everything to get a run on the board for their beloved team. The pitcher flips the ball up and down, waiting for the batter to step in the batter's box. As the batter steps in, the pitcher gives him an intense stare, as if to say, "I control this plate, and you're not going to take it without a fight." The pitcher and batter are now in a battle, both mentally and physically, even if not everyone knows it. The pitcher winds up and throws a blazer right down the middle, strike one. Then he seems to get right back on the mound and throws another heater, strike two. Now the hitter is in protection mode, and he just does not want to strike out. The pitcher winds up, kicks back, and throws. He's thrown a pitch right down the pipe, and it seems as if the hitter will put this one over the fence. He swings hard, as hard as he's ever swung and... he misses. He swings right through the pitch and completely missed it. He now has the long walk and the dejected feeling of going back to the dugout after a strikeout. Baseball is a marathon, though, and he will get a chance to get his revenge. Baseball's sights are amazing, but one could argue that it's sounds are even better.

Baseball's sounds are almost harmonious with our strong nation of America. The umpire yells "play ball" to start off the game, and everyone in the stadium feels their excitement peak when he says these two simple words. The "chomp" of player's bubblegum is audible to everyone in the dugout, for they are used to this sound. The "swish" of players spitting seeds can also be heard, one of the many nervous habits of ballplayers. The coach can be heard whistling, trying to lighten the mood and tenseness of his players by showing his own looseness. The snap of the pitcher's glove can be heard as he flips the ball up and down as he always does. The batter can be heard walking toward's the batter's box. It is time for his long awaited revenge on the pitcher. He says a prayer before stepping into the box, and then with a deep breath, he goes into his stance. The pitcher has long been done flipping the ball and is now ready to pitch. The batter and the pitcher have an intense staredown, ready for the battle to come. The pitcher gets his sign from the catcher, comes set, winds up, rears back, and chucks the ball. The classic "snap" of the glove can be heard as the ball blazes in for strike one. The pitcher repeats what he did for strike one, and now it is 0-2. It seems as if the batter will strike out again, but he has a different plan in mind. The pitcher winds up, kicks back and throws. The batter swings, and the classic "ting" of the aluminum bat tells the batter all he needs to know. The ball sails with a "whiz" over the fence, as if a missile blazing into enemy territory. The crowd cheers, as if a flip were switched, for they were quiet just 30 seconds ago. The batter goes into his homerun trot, and the "plop" of his metal cleats on the dirt can be heard. He has won this battle, and now they are even. Baseball's sounds are very melodious, but none can compare to the pure history of the game.

Baseball has been with our nation for just under 2 centuries, and this is why it has such an amazing history. It has been home to great men such as Ty Cobb, Cy Young, and Pete Rose. But one scandal left what people thought was an everlasting scar on baseball. This horrible scandal was the Black Sox Scandal of the 1919 World Series. What happened in this scandal was that the White Sox of 1919 were heavily favored to win the series. They did not think they were being payed enough, so they negotiated with gamblers to throw the series. They lost the series to the Reds, even though no one thought that the Reds even had a chance against the powerful White Sox. This left a blemish on baseball that lasted for quite a while, until along came a godlike man who would change baseball forever. This great man's name was Babe Ruth. He was the first great homerun hitter in baseball. Owners absolutely loved him, he made attendance soar through the roof, which made owners rich. He seemed to completely patch up the whole that the Black Sox Scandal had left in baseball. Such is the great and luscious history of baseball.

Baseball is a great game because of it's amazing sights, harmonious sounds, and absolutely lavish history. First, baseball has some of the most amazing sights in the world, including an intense battle between pitcher and batter. Second, it has some of the greatest sounds, including the "ting" of the bat and "snap" of the glove. And finally, the Black Sox scandal seemed to leave in baseball, but Babe Ruth healed it up. I love baseball, our national pastime, because it has been with us through good and bad, and has endured and persevered through it all.

Voice/Word Choice: 4

4-4-4-4

In this response about the writer's love of baseball, the wording is expressive and engaging, conveying a strong sense of the writer throughout the essay. Numerous vivid words and phrases are used effectively to describe the baseball experience, and the reader clearly understands why baseball is an enjoyable activity for the writer. The strong and passionate voice is well-suited for the purpose and audience, and the descriptive language is specific, precise and varied throughout the response.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

17 December, 2014

Before The Curtain Opens

Feel the heart beat, the sweaty palms, the mumbling of the crowd getting more and more silent as the lights go dim, and the curtain opens. In theatre, it's just another day in the life of us. Stress is not a problem with me on that stage, it's easier to be a whole different person than yourself for an hour or two. Once the lights are on the stage, personalities fade and the game is on. In theatre i get to explore beautiful sights, feelings, and experience new things. I get to go where the audience has never gone before.

Imagine a bright light in your eyes as they gleam in the sparkle of the stage. This is just one image i get to witness in this thrill ride of creativity. The veiw I see on stage is totally different from the audience's veivws. From rehearsals, the stage is just a dirty and dusty old block of wood that is yet to be cleaned before show time. The curtain is crusty and depressing from the uses of shows. But by the time of the last dress rehearsal it is a sparkling wonderland of props and furniture, lights, walls, and a whole new scenery. In just a time length of 2 months, a dusty spider infested cave can turn into a bright and classy gold carpet. simplicity is not a choice in set making or costume sewing. Creativity is key so that means colored lights, bright makeup, stunning costumes, and an overall beautiful appearance on stage. Theatre is quite an eye catcher for sure. But the more important thing in theatre, is the feeling of being in it.

Once roles are casted to everyone who had auditioned, it's time to work. Stress is a top feeling while working on a show or just theatre in general. There are many tickets to sell, posters to print, sets to build and characters to evolve. Theatre is not like shooting a movie, we can never edit out what has been said or done, that builds anxiety in everyone. The burden of a show is all worth it in the end, through all the heart attacks panicking and sweaty and hot dancing sessions, it is all a memory when the audience fades and the stage illuminates. As the first line is said, the play falls into place and everything starts to feel welcome and comfortable. It's just another day in the life and everything is at a steady pace and it is just like a rehearsal...but if you mess up, it's more embarrassing. When the final scene is on stage, the cast gathers like a penguin huddle backstage and smiles are shared and all is well as we party into curtain call with cheers and applause. Nothing can beat that feeling.... except for the full experience.

One might say that im crazy to think that I feel completley relaxed without a pinch of nervous energy when im on stage in front of several strangers acting funny. To me, that is just my life, i was raised like this since i was 7 and i could never be more happier with my experience. Auditions have become more and more simple and easier. The full time i have laughed, cried, and partied as i celebrate a new show. I know i may seem different to people but theatre kets you be yourself, it may be perfect for a role. There is no denying it, in theatre, my life has become a whole lot beter with the songs the dance and the people i have me along the way. I love the feeling of making someone laugh by the way i say something or do something, the fine arts no matter what it is has always came easily to me. It may not be perfect but it will always be a home to all of the theatre nerds out there. Thats what keeps me in theatre, the experience.

In theatre i have gotten to describe sights, feelings and my experience with others. The beautiful aray of neon colors in costumes or set peaces give me happiness. In the curtain call i love to hear the crowd cheering about the show and how they loved it too. The whole band of freaks has been my home since i was young and i have adored it ever since. theatre is beyond what i had expected it to be, it's given me a new family. Each night after a show i will still remeber the moment before the curtain opened.

Voice/Word Choice: 4

4-4-4-3

In this response about theater, the wording is expressive and engaging and conveys a strong sense of the writer throughout the essay. A strong voice, with a very personal account of all aspects of the activities of being in a theater group, is well-suited for the purpose and audience, and the descriptive language is specific, precise and varied throughout the response. Numerous vivid words and phrases are used effectively and the reader clearly understands why being a part of the theater and acting onstage is an enjoyable and important activity for the writer.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

A lot of people have an activity that they like to do with their families outside of school. Whether its staying at home watching movies and eating pizza or going out and going to the lake. My family likes to do active things, so during the summer we go to the lake a lot. My family likes to do active things with each other just so that we arent stuck at home all day and the solution to that is that me and my whole family end up going to the lake. It is a lot of fun and now I am going to tell you about what you see at the lake, what you smell at the lake, and what you can hear while your at the lake.

When you go to the lake you see many things. You see people, there are children and their parents and theyre with their families laughing and talking. A lot of the people you would see at the lake are having a meal together or playing in the water. Another thing that you see when you go to the lake is sand. The sand has this white and a light brown color to it. It looks soft and powdery, you can see some little sparkling rocks in the sand too, just because of how the sun is reflecting on it. At the lake you also see the water, it looks gross and dirty. It has this green color to it and it just looks icky. You see the sun reflecting off of the green water and in the water there is usually some children playing together laughing and giggling. In the sand you also see people laying on towels listening to music while theyre trying to sun tan.

If you go to the lake that me and my family go to, a lot of people like to eat there and they go and cook meat and things like that. So if you go to the lake you will smell people cooking. The air is filled with the smell of steaks and just different types of meats cooking for people and their families to eat. Another thing that you smell is the smell of camp fires. A lot of people choose to camp their and when they do they build campfires close to their tents. When you pull up to the lake and you get out of your car you get a faint smell of burning wood. You automatically can tell that it comes from the camping site near by. The smell of smoke fills the air. You also can just smell the water. It is kind of a dirty water smell.

While your at the lake you hear many things there, one of the many things that you hear while your at the lake is children. The children that you hear are usually laughing and giggling with each other. They are yelling while playing with one another and having fun. One of the main things you hear while your at the lake is music, a lot of people play music from wherever theyre at. You dont just hear their music that is being played on the radio it is also some families that like to sing or play music with each other. Some of the people that like to do their own little performances are actually really good. Another thing that you hear when your at the lake is just a faint buzz from everyones conversations being smooshed together, some people are on the phone with other people and some people are just having conversations with the people that had came with them.

All of these things make me love the lake and make me want to keep going back. The sand is always so warm and pretty and even though the water looks icky it is sill really relaxing and cool. The smell of the food and campfires gives it this welcoming feel to it. All the children you hear and the music and the singing is just so fun and welcoming to who ever shows up at the lake, these are reasons why I am always excited and happy to go to the lake with my family.

Voice/Word Choice: 3

4-3-3

In this response about going to a lake, the wording is generally expressive and conveys a certain sense of the writer and why being at the lake is enjoyable. The voice is generally appropriate for the purpose and audience, and the language is generally specific and varied. A few vivid words and phrases adequately describe the location and some of the activities that occur while spending time at the lake.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

Ogalala Lake

Splash splash that is some of what I hear when my family and I go camping. I love to go there in the summer because then all of my family gets to go and it is so fun. The lake is just outstanding! My favorite part about going is my family because I get to see all of them. The sights when I go camping are so amazing. These are some of the reasons why camping is one of my favorite activities.

The lake at Ogalala is so pretty. I love to go to this lake because it is so clear especially when I wear my goggles to see in the water. The sand there is so soft and warm. I love to build sand castles there because they stay up and it is easy to build the castle there. Sometimes when the sand is too hot I have to run so my feet won't get burned. It is funny seeing me run through the sand because it is hot. I love to swim there because the water is just right at the temperature it needs to be. When I swim it feels so calm and I just relax. I also like it when I play with my sisters and cousins because we play tag and other things. The most exciting thing is getting on the boat! It is so fun, I love it when the whole family is on the boat. The waves the lake does are awesome because when we are on the boat it kind of jumps. My most favorite part is my family.

My family is so important to me and I just love them all. I love when all of my family goes because I get to see my little cousin Eliely. He is one year old and so adorable I love him so much. He loves to eat especially in the morning when we cook breakfast. He sure eats a lot I think that is why he is kind of chubby. I also get to see my little girl cousin Angeles. She is also one year old. She hardly cries. She loves when we put her in water especially at the lake. One of the most important person in my life is my aunt Marcia. She is so nice to me and I love her to the moon and back. Everytime she comes I get so excited but when she leaves it is so sad. I just love all of my family so much. The sights when I go camping are wonderful.

The sights at Ogalala are unmarkble. The first thing I see is my family all together. Everytime I turn to see them they are laughing and just having fun. When we go on the boat my uncle is always making jokes and everyone cracks up. Another thing I see is the camp fire. It is big and bright and wood all over it. When I get to close to it, it burns me. When I see the camp fire I also see my sisters and cousins sitting around it making amore's. I love when it is night time because of the lights. The lights are so bright and colorful. Sometimes i sit down and just look up to see the beautiful lights. The sights are what makes it memerable.

The lake, my family and the sights are what make camping a great experience. Everytime I leave I can not wait to go again soon. The lake is a great place to swim and ride a boat. My family is a big part why I love to go and spend time there. The sights are just unbelievable. All of this is why camping is my favorite activity to do outside of school.

Voice/Word Choice: 3

3-3-3-3

In this response about camping at Ogalala Lake, the wording is generally expressive and conveys a certain sense of the writer. The voice is generally appropriate for the purpose and audience, and the language is generally specific and varied. Some vivid words and phrases adequately describe the activities at the lake, but a more specific, precise and engaging description would be required for a higher score. The reader has a general understanding of why going camping at the lake with family is such an enjoyable experience.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

I like to do many things in and out of school. some of the things you may not of heard of this are some of the things i like to do and love

One of my favertie things to do out of school is play soccer. I will play as the goaly so I can help my team block the ball if it gets close. I will also play as defender so I can kick the ball back to my teammates so we can score a goal. Sometimes the other team will get past us and make a goal. Our team has won arnd lost many games to other teams that are better then us but we never gave up.

My secend activity out of school is playing Minecraft on my computer. When i get on Minecraft I play on survifer. In these mod you can die and you have to make your own house with creepers; zombies and the Ender dragon that kills you in one hit. In my world i have made a two floor house that has many defence around it so it wont get destroud by the creepers because if they see you they will blow up and kill you. I like to play with some of my freands and help them build amazing things like mansions and skyscrapers taller then the clouds in the sky.

This is one of the best things i like do in and out of school reading. When i read it feels like im really in the book seeing what is happening as the adveniter unfolds. one of the best books I read is Percery Jackson and the Lighting Teif. in these book a boy named Percry thinks we is not speacel and has only one freand named grover. One day Percry and Grover go to a Greek MATHOLGY mumsum and a teahcer who is a demon thinks that he stole a item named the Lighting Rod that belongs to the god Zues. The rest of the book is good and I really enjoed it.

My last thing to do is the best of my activitys is to play Super Smash Bors for Nintendo 3DS and WII U. In this game you can play as one of the best game charters in the wrold like Mario; Star Fox; Sonic the Hegehog; Ness; and more. You can get online a battle on of the wrolds best players that have been in wrold ternerments. Ther are many modes to play in this game like classic mode. In this mode you fight up agenst some of Nintendo's best figters and when you get to the end master and crazy hand and once you beat them master core will come out and fight you. Master Core has five stages in the 3DS and six stages in WII U. In the WII U his last Stage is master fortters which is mostly impossable to beat.

These are my favertie things to do in and out of school.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

2-2-2-2

In this response about four different activities, the wording is occasionally expressive and conveys a limited sense of the writer. Descriptive language is only occasionally precise and varied, with few vivid words and phrases used to describe the activities. The voice is not particularly engaging or convincing, and the reader does not adequately understand what it is about the activities that the writer really enjoys, or why they are so special.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

What i like to do out of school is chill out at friends houses and chill out and also collect air soft guns i own 3 air soft guns i like doing matches with friends out at ranges and vs other teams and see whos better or just do it for fun me and my buddies are like a squad when it comes to air soft where usually always winning matches because we practice all the time after school we also ride dirt bikes sometimes usually on the weekends just bikeing on tiny roads and dirt trails and fields just ripping through dirt and powering are bikes at full throttle and the smell of gas just in the air as we go through a lot of obsectles on the trails going through tight spaces and forrests until we run out of gas or we get lost so we usually go back home and either work on the bikes or just play video games until we get board then we always go out to get something to eat usually burger king or wendys then i usually go back to there place or i might go home and pass out but usually i go back to there place and just play video games until its like night time thats when we head back out to go hang with more friends usually then we end up getting really tired and i go home to go to sleep or ill pass out at a friends house thats what i do out of school basically.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

2-1-2-1

In this response the wording is occasionally expressive and conveys a limited sense of the writer. Descriptive language is occasionally precise and varied, with some vivid words and phrases used to describe the activities associated with chilling out at a friend's house. A somewhat unenthusiastic voice does not engage the reader and does not clearly convey an understanding of why this activity is so enjoyable that it was chosen as the topic for this essay.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

My favorite activity is having a movie night with my family. My family is small, my mom and dad and then me. So movie night is my favorite because you can spend time together as a family and just have a good time. I don't get to watch a lot of movies with my family because my dad doesn't really like movies. But when we do I enjoy every moment of it .

Most movies that we watch together are action comides, comedies, or christian baced movies.

Voice/Word Choice: 1

1-1-1-2

The wording in this brief response about a movie night is inexpressive and lifeless, conveying little sense of the writer. The language is neither specific or precise nor varied and vivid words or phrases are missing. The voice is inappropriate for the purpose, and the reader has little understanding why this activity is enjoyable.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

An activity i like to do either is play foot ball in to play my xbow one. I like to play football because i love football because it's just let me me be myself in to let all my self of steam out in when i get older i wanna be in the NFL. but attheir then that i would play my xbox one online sometimes i would play gta 5 or ufc in like at 6:30 i go to boxing class in than to the gym by my house. and that all what i do ather school

Voice/Word Choice: 1

1-1-1-1

The wording in this brief essay about football and Xbox conveys little sense of the writer. Language is neither specific or precise, nor varied. Vivid words or phrases are lacking, and the voice is inappropriate for the purpose.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

December 14, 2014
Smooth Skiing

"You plummet down the mountain side at top speeds, and count the number of seconds you have before you reach the base." Without any context, this quote could seem quite scary and suspenseful. Although the actual idea of rushing down a mountain with only peices of high-tech plastic on your feet seems pretty insane, skiing is still one of my favorite things to do. A beautiful ski resort called Crested Butte is a tiny mountain getaway that my family and I go to almost every winter. Its sights are magnificent, and the beauty of it all is breathtaking. You can touch the nature around you, and expirience every little gift mother nature has carefully crafted. You truly feel like you are on top of the world being up on that mountain, and every emotion is overwhelming, and beautiful. There are so many things that make skiing awesome, and the sights truly make everything more enjoyable.

Visually, I personally think mountains are the most beautiful place to be. Mount Crested Butte has so many hidden treasures, and if you blink as your rushing through a forest trail, you just might miss a spectacular sight. As you approach the mountain in your car, and excitement is rushing through you becasue after 8 hours you are FINNALLY there, the mountain greets you with beautiful flowing scenery. The south face of the mountain is covered in intense terrain, not cleared to be skied. Rocky sections are broken up by glittering snow patches. As you circle the mountain, you see the wonderous city of Crested Butte. Wonderful little cottages are on ground level, and a quaint little town is sorrounding the main attraction. The ski resort at Crested Butte truly takes the cake. Modern condos and mansions line the mountain, and huge lifts and ski rental places sorround everything. While actual on the slopes, everything up there is breathtaking. To the left of you, you can see foggy mountaintops of nearby mountains, and to your right, you see many smiling faces pass you as they ski by. Mysterious, dark forests and bright gleaming snow jumps all make this mountain an unforgettable visual expirience.

To truly take in the expirience of being on such a beautiful mountain, feeling the nature around you is a must. Rushing down a forest trail can be very scary sometimes, but as long as I can grip the outsides of the trees, feeling every bump and ridge as I hang on for dear life, I know I'll make it out alright. Everything that you can touch is masked by the thermal gloves and sweaty fingers on the ends of your arms. As one skis down the mountain, there are many icy spots along the trail, that usually make you feel as if you are going over a speed bump, or rather, 50 little speedbumps that jolt your body up and down. Cold snowflakes lightly flutter down, and make their home upon any exposed skin, and melt before you can even notice they were there. Chilly wind nips at your nose, and it feels as if you just got hit in the face with a frozen pillow. Everything about skiing is so wonderful, and to truly take it all in, feeling and touching what you can is a great part.

Baralling toward the end of the trail, racing your pals to the finish, fills your body with a surplus of emotions. Feeling exhilarated and nervous and excited all at the same time, skiing is the best way to lift your spirits. Emotions flow through your body like a racing river, and seem to find a way to make you feel completely amazing one moment, and terified in another. I've met some really good friends of mine while skiing, and being with them is really awesome. We have a saying that we always use whenever we're scared to try something new, or just arn't very motivated; "We up here." This quote does not make alot of sence, and isn't grammatically correct, but we know what it means, and it always has a way to give us a second wind. There truly isn't a way for me to explain how it feels to be skiing on your favorite trail, with perfect conditions, and your favorite people in the world right beside you, but one word might be able to sum it all up; bliss.

Skiing is one of my favorite things to do, and I look forward to being up there every year. Mount Crested Butte is truly a sight for sore eyes, and its magnificent visual treasures are always enjoyable to look at. Textures and expiriences really make this mountain a great place to do what I really love to do... ski! The best part of my year is being able to feel so many emotions while I'm skiing, and it always brings a smile to my face. I truly love skiing, and it is one of my favorite things on earth to do. Crested Butte is magnificent, and I wouldn't want to live in a world without this amazing place to do what I love.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 4

4-4-4

Sentences vary in length and structure throughout this response about skiing. Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. Grammar, usage, and punctuation are consistently correct. A few spelling errors are not significant enough to lower the score.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

My Favorite Activity

There are thousands of hobbies that could appeal to different people, like reading, making videos, and having fun with friends. I enjoy all of these activities, but my favorite would have to be when I am in musicals at the Rose Theater. It is so much fun and I adore doing them, which makes them the perfect activity for me.

Some people might be scared to go onstage, but I have never been.....and there's no way I could possibly be! I feel amazing when I am standing on the wide stage, smelling the fog machine and waiting for my turn at Mic (microphone) Check. I love to be backstage and smell the mix of makeup, dust, and laundry detergent, and to hop up the wide cement steps to the dressing rooms. Putting on costumes is the most fun because then I truly feel like the person I am playing. I think that it makes our show much more sincere, just like the scenery and props that add to the accuracy of the show. I even think ripping off microphone tape on my face and neck is not the worst thing I could ever do because the zing of pain only lasts a second, and the microphones are part of the fun.

Another great thing about the Rose is all of the talented people I get to meet, so I'm never lonely. I have lots of new friends that are in the show and we entertain each other by playing games, talking, and watching videos while we wait backstage. Usually our laughter can be heard (quietly) backstage when we are having fun. Performing is a great activity and a great experience because I can have many new acquaintances and it is great to be onstage together.

Almost every night I dance, sing, and act at the Rose under the bright stage lights that cascade around us like light shining on water. I love watching the audience and I feel a surge of joy when they laugh and smile at parts of the show. I shiver at the powerful, beautiful music from the musical geniuses in the orchestra pit and our voices matched against them. I love the ancient, elegant feel of the Rose and how lucky I am to be able to make people smile there.

Performing is my absolute favorite thing to do and I hope to continue it for years to come. There are so many reasons why I love to act, sing, and dance, especially at the wonderful Rose Theater. That is why doing musicals is the perfect activity for me.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 4

3-3-4-4

Sentences vary in length and structure throughout this response about performing in musicals. Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are consistently correct.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

17 December 2014

The Endless Experience

Arid, cold, and breathless air hits my face. The smell of pine trees mixed with the smells of snow fill my nose with pleasant aromas. As I'm speeding down the slope of Terry peak, I know that I have a deep love for snowboarding and that I want to aspire every single time I snowboard. The scenery, experiences, and the lodge make up a typical ski resort and they effect the enjoyment of snowboarding in a fascinating. So lets buckle up our straps, as we journey down to the bottom of the mountain with scenery all around!

Whenever I glide down a slope, I'm always taking a peak at all of the beautiful scenery. Pine trees always line the trail as if they were arrows pointing for where I should be headed to. All of the trees have blankets of snow that keep the trees nice and cozy for a frigid winter day. Snow covered bushes surround the trunks of the trees, it almost looks like the bushes are hugging the trees. In the distance I can make out outlines of small mountains and hills overlapping each other with such beauty nothing can compare to. In the middle of four mountains, a small town called "Deadwood" flows with the landscape, so petite compared to the mountains. Metal ski lifts are above me carrying passengers up to the summit to give them another amazing experience. To my left and to my right are people who ride along side me are whooping and hollering as we are all having a great time. Gusts of wind slap me in the face as I ride down leaving scents of pine trees mixed with very pleasant earthen aromas. The taste of water flows through my mouth as I take a sip of water that depletes my thirst. In front of me I pass metal ramps and rails that you can use anytime. Snow ramps tower beside me almost as if they were huge giants! With all of this happening, I'm having an amazing experience.

Snowboarding is just an amazing experience, that nothing can size up to. Whenever I'm snowboarding I'm always feeling the rush of adrenaline coursing through my body with an unstoppable urge to rapidly journey through the mountains. It's an experience I always have, it's basically an endless emotion. When I see a ramp I always am preparing to jump off it with a unresistable temptation of having another taste of adrenaline. In midair it almost seems like everything slows down to a halt, everything around me looks golden for a few seconds as I catch humongous air. My heart is purely running on adrenaline as it beats like its an engine. Right when I land i bend my knees so I can stick a landing. Right when I land everything is normal again, making me want to ramp off again and again. But whenever I fail I get a really bad landing that happens to my back. As soon as I know it, I'm back down at the skiing lodge.

The moment I open the lodge door, a wall of warm air hits my face. Aromas of bountiful food and drinks make my stomach roar with hunger and makes my mouth water. Colorful skis and snowboards line the walls waiting for another ride. The room is filled with lots of people that sounds of laughter and chatter are derived from. Across the room is the store that sells a variety of goods. Including hats, coats, goggles, hoodies, snowboards, skis, and it even has hand and feet warmer packs! To my right is where they sell food that is very cheap and is very tasteful. I usually get walking tacos and a mountain dew to quench my thirst. I also get a few bottles of water for when I go back outside to snowboard. The lodge is where memories are made and friendships are hardened.

The scenery, experience, and the lodge are the main 3 things that make snowboarding super enjoyable. As everyone knows I'm an adrenaline junkie that wants to do lots of dangerous things. When the first snow falls, I automatically know it's snowboarding season. So as we unstrap our buckles memories fill my brain with so many things. So lets say good bye to today's snowboarding as we look forward to the next.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3

4-4-4-3

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this response about snowboarding. The sentences are usually correct and the fragment and run-on errors do not confuse the reader. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are generally correct and a few errors do not distract the reader. Phrasing generally sounds natural. A more consistent control of sentence fluency throughout the response would be required for a higher score.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

Fishing

One of the most enjoyable things in life to me is fishing. I have been proudly addicted to fishing since my grandparents began taking me when I was about 2. You could say that fishing is a Phillips' family tradition. Besides that there are 5 reasons to why I love fishing. The view, relaxation, gamble of the catch, memories created, and of course bragging rights.

One important part of fishing is the peace and tranquility that the body of water offers you. I can think of several times where school and life in general had me stressed out and fishing helped me forget about the worries of the world. Along with quietness and peace, the surrounding areas usually smell fantastic. There's nothing quiet like the smell of fresh water, and wild flowers.

Another reason I enjoy fishing is it is really addicting. And by that I mean it is hard to leave the water if you haven't caught any fish. You always feel as if the next cast could catch you the "big one." On top of that you can never tell what the fish actually wants because there is thousands of different colors, shapes, and textures to each lure. One hour they might want a red rattling crankbait and the next they want a peaceful white spinner you never really know.

Something that always gets me excited about fishing is earning bragging rights among my family or fishing buddies. As I said earlier, my family overall greatly enjoys fishing. So being able to come home with a large catfish or a stringer full of "eating size" crappie is truly great. Plus it's kind of fun to rub it in my brother and sisters' face.

Fishing isn't only about bragging rights its about creating memories that will last a life time. I still get a smile on my face thinking about all of the succesful fishing trips I have been on with my family and friends. My grandpa and I always have great conversations about fishing and how to be succesful in the catch of fish. And not only fishing but fish fries on the weekend really help to bring a family together.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3

3-3-3-3

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this response about fishing. The sentences are mostly correct, and the grammar, usage, and punctuation errors do not distract the reader. Phrasing generally sounds natural, and the fragment and run-on errors that are evident do not confuse the reader.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

The activity I enjoy doing is racing go karts at North Platte. A warm and cloudy day is perfect for racing karts. You have to know how to drive. Once you start racing, it is hard to quit.

One of the smells coming from the building where they cook food, is grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. Ice cold lemonade hits the spot between races. Sandwiches are served with chips. You can also buy different candies.

At Cody's go karts, there are two go kart tracks and a medium sized game trailer. One of the games they have is "Call of Duty". There are a lot of friendly people at Cody go karts. Most of them seem to be having a good time. The people are laughing and having fun racing karts.

My favorite ride is the figure eight track for the go karts. I feel like I am going fast on the kart. There can be about ten to fifteen karts on the track at the same time. I see go karts all around me as I am racing. Go kart racing doesn't require any special gear.

Cody's go karts are for kids and people of all ages. It is open for business in the summer time. The entire family will enjoy going to this park.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

2-2-2-2

Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure, but the preponderance of shorter, less complex sentences, affects fluency in this response about go-kart racing. Phrasing occasionally sounds somewhat awkward. Some grammar and usage errors are evident and may distract the reader.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

My activity

My activity i like to do is play board games at home. My friends come to my house and hang out with me and play board games. We like to play **monoply empire** it is so fun. What you do is fill the tower and you win. It is a really fast game.

When you are in my house you can smell all of the animals in my house and you can see a board game called "**MONOPLY**", and you can also see out side my window. When you walk in the front door you can see the stairs and when you look around you can see the living room.

It would sound like victory because you would see a bunch of peolpe you cheated and you didnt. This is why I like to play this board game. You will have so much fun playing this board game. This game can also help you be more closer to your family and friends.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

2-1-2-2

Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure in this somewhat brief response about a board game. Phrasing occasionally sounds unnatural. Fragments and run-ons sometimes confuse the reader and some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors may also somewhat distract the reader.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

At soccer practise we do drills. And we try to work on passing drills too. We also work on scoring goals. And shooting the ball or just shooting. And we also dpo running stuff but not alot of running stuff so it's not that hard but it is a work out.

Ok so drills. We do alot of drills. Cause there's so many drills. We do passing drills like were in a serical and you pass is to your right and you rund to your left. And some the you pass to your left and you run to your right.

And now passing. Passing and scoreing are mostly what the sport is all about. You passing all the time onless you want to be ballhog but noone likes ballhogs. So dont ballhog just pass the ball. And just play but you have to give a nice smothe pass but dont ever got scared or neves because you'll mess up and you will be inbareist.

Making goals is so hard at piontsometimes its just so easy. Making goals at practise is sometimes hard because we have a very good goalie and if you miss sometimes its 15 pushups by the coach and sometimes it's something else like 20 situps or something. But the main thing is making goals macking goals. Cand be very and hard like if your far away from the goal and you cant hit it that hard to make it or if you just shoot the ball wrong and you get made fun of. But when you make a goal you feel so good and excised. But at practise is so fun you go talk to your team mates after practise and you just go and get exasice.

The piont is that practise is fun. And all of the kinds of stuff you do the. And what you do there so yeah. But practise is fun.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

2-2-2-1

Phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural and many fragments and run-ons confuse the reader throughout this response about soccer. Sentences seldom vary in length and structure with many errors present. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors that distract the reader are evident throughout the response.

Think about an activity you enjoy doing either in or out of school.

It could be something you do with your friends, a family outing, an outdoor activity, a sporting event, or any other activity. Consider descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that you experience.

Using sensory details, write an essay describing this activity so that the readers can picture it, feel like they are there, and understand why you enjoy it.

one thing i like to do out of school with my friends is go bmxing at bmx parks or around omaha . it all started one year in the summer me and my friends had some bmx bikes there was three of us we mostly went around the areas were i lived by to ride around . And i had a little ramp i would always have on my porch so mostly every week we would ride are bikes in the street in front of my house but one day as me and my friends were riding are bikes my friend john went off the ramp and the wood snapped in half so. we tried to fix it but we didnt have any wood to replace the broken peace so my grandpa decided to take me and my friends to a bike park and he would take us there almost every week to learn more tricks on bikes as we went there more and more every week we made new friends there who knew how to ride bikes good so we learned to do more tricks and new moves it was fun some times but some times i would fall off my bike and bruise my self but i alawys got back up and still began to practice. ushually we would leave the bike park and go down town and find new things to do with bikes down sometimes when we would ride down there we would see some cool stuff that people can buy and there was this one big sculpture we saw by an ice cream shop down town and it was tall and it looked cool so we went by it and looked at all the details on it but when we would go threw certain areas down town there would be nasty gross smels that we didnt like to smell so we ushually try to stay in open places no riding in alleys were there are lots of stinky trash every were some times there would be rain mud puddles in the streets so one time i rode my bike threw one and i almost fell off my bike because the hole was bigger than ithought it would be but i lifted my frint fire up so i wouldnt go face first over my bike handle bars and the good part was i caught my self from falling but when my fires hit the water puddle some very stinky water fsplashed up and got all over me so i had to ride my bikes home with my friends because i had water all over me but whale i was riding my bike home the faster i rode my bike the air would try me off whale i would ride but i eventually made it home and i took off my shoes because there were wet and they had wet mud and water dripping from them so i told my friends that i was done riding my bike for the day so my friends all went home and thats how my day went riding bikes with my three good friends.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

2-1-2-1

Sentences seldom vary in length and structure with many formation errors present throughout this response about BMX biking. Phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural as many run-ons confuse the reader. Grammar, usage, and punctuation errors throughout distract the reader.