NeSA-Writing

ENE233

2013

GRADE 4

Writing

Scoring Guide
Writing Topic

Think about a time in your life when you felt happy.

It could be a time when you received an award or gift, heard some good news, or went someplace fun.

Write a story using specific details so anyone who reads it will understand what happened and why it made you happy.
CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE
PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Purpose

➢ To tell a story about something that happened that is real or imagined

Organizational Pattern

➢ Generally chronological in terms of the story's timeline with a clear beginning, middle and end

➢ Sometimes flashbacks may be used

➢ Ending that helps the reader understand how the incident resolved itself

Story Elements

➢ Specific details that make the story seem real or come to life
  ✓ Characters
  ✓ Setting
  ✓ Incidents/happenings

➢ Writer may use the first person point of view as the narrator OR may tell the story from the third person point of view
Ideas / Content
Have you ever felt so happy your heart was about to burst? Anything could make you happy, a new bike, a whole bunch of clothes, or in my case, a puppy.

It was Christmas Eve night, my family had just gotten home from church. We all rushed inside to get our pjs on so Santa could come. My sisters and I zoomed up the stairs and went to sleep. I tossed and turned in my bed just thinking about what Santa might leave under the Christmas tree on Christmas morning.

Finally, Christmas was here and my sisters and I scurried down the stairs like three little mice. When we got in the Living Room, presents surrounded the Christmas tree. My mom and dad were not awake yet so we sat on the couch and waited and waited and waited. But finally we could not wait any longer so we woke my mom and dad up to come see what Santa had left us.

When my mom and dad got to the Living Room we started opening presents right away. We tore the wrapping paper open so fast we could not wait to see what was inside. I got a new Easy Bake Oven, my sister got a doll, and my younger sister got a mini piano. It was the
When we all started playing with our new toys, my dad noticed something, there was a brush and a jerky stick under the Christmas tree. Did Santa make a mistake?

We all went outside to look for something that might have to get brushed or eat jerky. Then we went into the garage. A bag of dog food was on the back of my dad's pickup. I knew right then it had to be a puppy. We all started wandering around the garage looking for a puppy. Then my dad looked in the pickup and saw a tiny puppy. Santa had made a bed for it with blankets from inside of our house.

My dad said “Come here, you won’t believe this.” We all went to the pickup and looked at the tiny puppy staring at us behind the window.

When we got back to the house we gave the puppy some blankets to curl up in. Then we started to suggest names. My sisters were aiming for “Strawberry, Cupcake, or Princess.” But then I said “What about Spot?” Everyone said “Yes!” The puppy had no clue what was going on but I could tell she was happy.
Have you ever gotten that feeling where you think back to yourself "I wouldn't change a thing in that day." This is a time where I say 'that exact thing. This was the happiest day of my life.

"Addi wake up, I think mom had her baby," I whispered into my sister's face. It took a while but when I finally managed to get her up, she leaped off the top bunk. "I'm so excited," I said.

We slithered like snakes into my mom's room to see if she was there. "I don't see her," my sister whispered, trembling with excitement. "Let's go check downstairs." I whispered back, hearing the TV in the background.

"Hi Mr. Anderson?" I said trying to put the pieces together again. "Your mom had her baby," he said smiling. Addi and I both squealed like guineapigs. "Would you like to call your mom, she been calling all morning?" We said yes at the same time.

Have you ever and felt like you had been driving forever? Where you just want the world to fast forward. My aunt Penney
picked us up. We had to stop at the store to get a balloon and card. But I think she just wanted the tension to grow on us.

Parking in the parking lot was like looking at fresh warm brownies and wanting to 'eat' them but can't. He sprinted out of the car and right into the room. I dashed directly into my mom's arms and she gave me one of those bright kisses that you get from your grandma and think it left a mark. Then, I looked over at my dad who was holding my baby brother. I got that feeling that someone was standing by me saying he's yours, holding my brother for the first time made me smile.

Still today, I would not change one thing on that day. That day...was the happiest day of my life.
**The Best Day Ever**

By: Nick O.

I thought that day would be any ordinary day but I was wrong, it was the best day ever. It was the day that I got my first dog.

The day began normally, but then my mom told my sister and I that we were getting a dog from Grand Island. When she said that, I wet my pants.

Then, it was ten o'clock and my mom, my sister Alli, and myself piled into the car and took off down the street heading to the breeder's house in Grand Island. Once we got onto the highway, we were going as fast as a rocket. Like all road trips the time went really slow.

"Are we there yet?" I whined.

"Not even close," my mom replied.

Next, my sister turned on the radio to its maximum volume and started to "sing." Then, my mom...
turned the radio off, but then Lily starts "singing" her own song which is even worse.

"Are we there yet?" I asked again.

SCREEEEEEEECH! "We're here," my mom said.

Spoke too soon I thought to myself.

Next, we sighted the two dogs that we were choosing between. Then, we started to get the little fluffy puppies. Next, we played with them in the dewy grass while the wind was howling. Finally, after like forty-five minutes of playing with them we had made our decision of which puppy we got. The one we decided on was a golden doodle with bright gold fur, very playful. She was fifteen pounds of cuteness, and best of all her name was Zoey. I was really happy because we got an awesome dog and we all loved her.

I will never forget the day I got my first dog. I felt very, very happy. I hope I have a day like that again someday. Now, I've decided that was the best day ever.

Ideas/Content: 3

3-4-4-4

In this response the writer creates a general understanding of the events of the story, and the content is generally focused on the time the writer got his first dog. While the central idea of the story is about getting the dog, much of the content is focused on the journey there, leaving the main part of the story less well developed. The writer has provided adequate related details and the storyline is logical and easy to follow.
“Canonball!” I yelled as I made a temporary crater in the water. I was at Lake Okoboji in Iowa with my family.

It all started when my mom and dad said, “Pack up your things and enough clothes to last you a week.” My sister, brother, and I didn’t know what was going on but we went along with it. After five hours of being on the interstate we arrived.

“We’re here!” my mom said.

“Cool!” I replied.

The next day, after unpacking we went to Manhattan beach. I jumped off the dock 7-9 times. Splat! An absorbant ball hit my back. I pelted my brother 16 times before he surrendered. The rest of the week flew by like a minute. On Sunday we went to Arnold’s Amusement Park. I rode
the roller coaster 13 times. I rode the Tipsy Turvy 6 times. It went too fast.

"Time to go," my mom said glumly.

"Ahhhh! It went so fast I said.

I'll always remember that week. I hope I go again sometime.

Ideas/Content: 3

In this response the writer creates a general understanding of the events of the story, and the content is generally focused on a family vacation to Iowa. While some related details about the time at a lake and at an amusement park are included, they are not numerous and do not clearly convey why it made the writer feel happy. The storyline is generally logical and easy to follow.
What has fluffy ears that droop down's white and orange, has more energy than a racing horse and made me happy the day I saw him?
You will know by the end of this story:
"When will they be here?" I asked. The only reply I got was "They will be here when they are here." I've had to wait for 2 whole days for my Mom, Grandma, and my new English Cocker Spaniel to come home!

I tried to get some sleep, but nothing worked. It was the night before they came home.

My dreams were mainly about him. The next day I was as fast as a car going down stairs to see him. I found him outside running up and down the yard. The anger is my English Cocker Spaniel, Blaze. I learned you can never be too happy.

Ideas/Content: 2

In this response the writer creates a limited understanding of the events of the story. The content is focused more on the anticipation of getting the dog, and less on the happiest moment when the dog finally arrives. The storyline needs to be extended to include more relevant details about being happy "the day I saw him".
I will never forget the time
I went to Coco Keys

When I went to Coco Keys I was happy and I had fun. It was fun because I got to swim and go down a huge water slide. It was fun and scary at the same time and when I landed the water was deep that was the scary part.

I got to in a hot tube to it was hot and bubbly that was the best part. I also got in a pool with three basketball hoops and tiny basketballs. Finally I met a new friend named Kathy we kept pushing each other's heads in the water. I will never forget that day.

Ideas/Content: 2

In this response the writer creates a limited understanding of the events of the story. While the content is somewhat focused on a number of fun activities the writer enjoyed while at Coco Keys, a logical and easy to follow storyline is lacking. The response is a simple list of fun things the writer did, without developing an adequate story.
gasp! I used to run up and down my hall and my sister would crawl at me. Then one day she stood up!! We were all so surprised. "I taught her to walk. I couldn't believe it! It's been harder to get away ever since.

P.S. my ankles got sore.

Ideas/Content: 1
In this brief response, the writer creates little understanding of the events of the story. While the central idea is about the day his sister stood up, supporting details are lacking.
I'm happy best in the spring time. I like to go to the skate park. It was the best time of my life.

It is spring and I like to bike. I get my bike from the shed. I went to the skate park. It was fun. I had a friend and it went to my friend's house.

And then we went to the skate park. And that was the best time of my life.

Idea/Content: 1

In this brief response, the writer creates little understanding of the events of the story. While a disconnected and somewhat random storyline about going to a skate park with a friend is evident, supporting details are lacking, and the reader is unclear about what made the writer happy.
Organization
Sing Around Nebraska

We were walking into music class. I was nervous and excited all at the same time. I was going to try-out for a singing group called "Sing Around Nebraska.

At the end of class I walked up to my music teacher and she said to start singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." I started singing and the words started flowing out of my mouth like a river.

A few days later she told the class that the names of the people who got to go to "Sing Around Nebraska" was taped to the door. I was so excited to see who got to go! Would I? I knew that I was a pretty good singer but I didn't know if I was good enough to go.

The next thing I knew one of my classmates was telling I got to go! I got all jumpy inside and could hardly breathe, but tried to look calm on the outside. It was too hard though, so instead of staying calm a huge smile spread across my face!

After about six weeks of practicing we were
on the road going to the place we were going to be singing. It was the most beautiful place I've ever seen! The stage was the best part though, with wood floors and bright lights it was truly beautiful.

After a whole day practicing with our director we were ready for the concert.

I heard clapping, and then it died down to a whisper. Then suddenly the keys on the piano started playing joyful music. The room filled with music and the audience started clapping to the beat. I've never felt so alive in my life! We all started singing and had a great time!

My family was so proud of me! After the concert was over and we had gone home that night, I had dreams of everyone I had met and how happy I'd felt. Truly that was a very joyful day I will never forget!

Organization: 4

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is effective in this story about being in the "Sing Around Nebraska" group. Effective transitional phrases at the beginning of each paragraph successfully connect the main ideas together, and pacing is very well-controlled throughout the response. Paragraphing is generally sound and a strong ending effectively wraps up the main idea of the story.
Bing! Bing! That's the sound of me jumping for joy, because I just got my first American Girl doll. Let me tell you about the happiest time in my life when I got Nikie.

It all started in Chicago when my mom and aunt Erin were taking me on a walk around town and we saw the American Girl doll store. Please can we in? I asked. Surely replied my mom so I ran over to the heavy doors that felt like fifty pound weights. Right when I got in I started looking for a certain doll.

Where could she be? I asked myself. I almost searched the whole store and I still couldn't find her. Then I turned my head to the right and saw the most pretty of all of the dolls, Nikie. She wasn't the doll I was looking for but she was even better. I loved her.
So my mom took her over to the cash register to buy her. I jumped with joy. I was so happy.

I was so happy when the cash register went off and Nikie was all mine. I'll never forget the time I got Nikie. I wish that day could last forever.

Organization: 4

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is effective in this story about buying an American Girl doll in Chicago. Strong transitional phrases between paragraphs effectively connect the events of the story together. Pacing is well-controlled and paragraphing is sound. A satisfying ending effectively wraps up the story, leaving the reader with no doubt about how happy she was to get her Nikie doll.
One of the happiest times of my life was when I got my 4th generation iPod Touch. My mom, brother, and I went to get some new throwing shoes for my brother. At the end of the day we found ourselves at Best Buy to get a new laptop.

When we walked in I suddenly remembered how much I wanted the new iPod. After we ordered our laptop I asked my mom if we could go look at the iPods. She said yes, I was thrilled.

Then we realized they didn’t have the iPods on display. So I asked a guy if they had the iPod I wanted. He said they had them at the customer service counter.

Once we got there my mom said I had to pay for it myself. I knew I had enough money so I didn’t care. After I could my money I realized I was about $100 short! I was pretty sure I had enough money but I didn’t. My mom had to pay for the rest of it but she didn’t care.

As you can see getting my new iPod was one of the happiest times of my life.

Organization: 3

While the structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is present in this story, it is not particularly effective. The organization begins strongly and the transitions effectively connect the ideas together, but the pacing is not well controlled, as the story becomes hurried at the end. At the key moment of the story when the writer actually obtains the iPod, the story seems to end suddenly and the concluding sentence is weak. Paragraphing is generally successful.
It was a hot summer day and my cousin Adam was visiting for the weekend. My sister Lauren, Adam and I were bored out of our minds, trying to figure out what to do. We were trying to hide our boredom from our parents, because we thought they would give us some lame idea. But I guess we didn't do too good of covering it up, because my dad asked if we wanted to go to Coco Keys water resort. We all sprang up from sitting on the couch and decided to talk about the "lame idea" thing about the adults later. Of course we said yes to going, though. We ran upstairs to get our swimsuits on, and then came back down with our towels and secretly, money in our pockets for food and the arcade. I guess he knew us to well, though, because he reached in our pockets and took the money away. He then told us to get in the car. When we got to Coco Keys, we ran inside, paid them our money, we ran to the nearest table and set our stuff down. We jumped into the water and played and swam for about a half an hour. When we got out of the water, we all decided to
to the water slide, we raced up the stairs, trying to get to the top. When we all got to the top, the lifeguard handed us our rafts. Adam was the first to go down. After a while, the lifeguard told Lauren to go. Then, after what seemed like forever, the lifeguard finally let me go. It was the best experience of my life!!! It was pitch black, and I looped and turned and dived until I hit the pool with a giant "SPLASH!!" I stayed there in the water for a second, wondering if I was dead. When I realized I wasn't, I climbed out of the water to join Lauren and Adam. We talked and laughed for the rest of the time. That was the most amazing, best, and happiest day ever.

Organization: 3

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is present in this story about a trip to Coco Keys. Pacing is generally controlled even though the beginning is somewhat over extended. Transitions are somewhat functional and connect the ideas of the story together in a generally chronological timeline. Paragraphing is generally successful even though it is not formatted correctly.
My parents signed me up for dance class, so I was about done with dance class. So they dropped me off at the high school with my dance teacher, so my group and I could practice. So we started practicing and practicing for every long time. After a while Mrs. Amy us to go to the gym and start getting ready. So we all went to the gym and got our outfits on, makeup on, and got our hair done. Some of us started practicing after we got that stuff on. When everybody got there some dancers started performing, but I had to wait so I watched them. My dance was at the very end. Sometimes I just practiced. Finally it was my turn. I thought it seemed like I had to wait all day. Mrs. Amy called Pom2, which was my group and I. After we were done we waited on stage for everybody to quit clapping, so we bowed. When we went on stage we had to go get a special shirt on, so all the dancers went back and got there shirts on. Mrs. Amy started calling names when she did everybody went on.
and she gave everybody a paper that said 'Congratulation and thank you.' When everybody got one she told us to sit down.

She started calling certain people up to give a note. I didn't think I was gonna get a note, until she said 'Chelsea,' I was so excited! I gave her a hug.

Then, at the end she had a banquet, and people gave me flowers and hugs and said good job, so I went home and put all my flowers in a vase and made thank you cards!

Organization: 2

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is limited in this story about a dance performance. Pacing is somewhat inconsistent and the transitions are repetitious and occasionally weak. Paragraphing is irregular and the ending does not help the reader understand what it is that happened that made her so happy.
I felt happy when I went to Fun Plex because my dad told us and we were so happy about going to Fun Plex.

First, I was going to get my stuff to go to Fun Plex. Then I was going to the car and we went to Fun Plex and we got there and I went to have some fun.

Next, I was getting wet because I like getting wet a lot in the summer so that was really fun.

Then I went to the rollercoaster and it was fun riding the rollercoaster so I went to about five rides at Fun Plex because they were really fun.

Finally, it was getting dark and then it was going to close in 15 minutes and I wanted to go on for a ride before I went home.

Organization: 2

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is limited in this story about going to Fun Plex. Pacing is awkward, and weak transitions do not help connect the ideas of the story together. Paragraphing is irregular.
When I got Gabby, my mom and I got a new puppy. She is 3 months old.

I think she is so cute and she is shy. Sometimes she is playful. She likes to chew on the couches and shoes.

I love her hair, it does not know how long to grow. Some are really short, some are medium, and some are really long.

I will never forget that day we got Gabby.

Organization: 1

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is lacking in this response about the day the writer got a puppy. Pacing is awkward, and paragraphing is ineffective. Transitions are missing as ideas are presented in a somewhat random order. A weak ending is evident.
Have you ever felt happy about something? I have once. I helped my neighbor Mrs. Peterson with her groceries. I also helped my dad with his binch he is building. All these things make me feel happy. I help my mom with her work files too. I happy about it. She said thank you! The End.

Organization: 1

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is lacking in this brief response about helping people. Pacing is awkward and connections are unclear. Paragraphing is ineffective and there is no ending.
Voice / Word Choice
I hated Geography. I thought that I always would. I used to believe that learning about ecosystems and land features was as interesting as the lint that the dryer collects. That was until my class and I went to Heritage School. The event that happened that day changed my feelings forever.

It was the middle of the Spelling Bee, and I was determined to win. As determined as the Little Engine in the children's story book. But winning would be no downhill track. As I neared the front of the line of kids waiting to spell, my heart beat faster than a 'hyperactive' kettle drum. The line inched forward like a grandfather slug. Suddenly, it was my turn to spell. I gulped hard. This word was bound to be tough. A lot of people in front of me had gotten out on it. The word was, "Molasses," I quivered, "M-O-L-A-S-S-E-S. Molasses." I held my breath.
"That is correct!" smiled Mrs. H., our Heritage School teacher. She gestured toward the front of the room. "Our first finalist.

Wow! I thought, shakily walking to the front of the room. Being a finalist meant I had a chance!

I stood tall at the front of the room, watching my classmates spell. Some kids would get their words right, others would be incorrect. Finally, only one person was left. Then I knew this would be some tough competition. I fiddled nervously with my sky-blue pinifore.

"All right," said Mrs. H. She flipped to the back of her book. Oh oh! I thought, my palms sweating like a long-haired, black cat standing in the sun. Mrs. H. gave the first word to me.

"Vincent," she said. I spelled it incorrectly. So did Thea. I breathed a sigh of relief. I still had an opportunity to win! Mrs. H. chuckled hard, "word after word"
Word at us, Thea and I survived. That's when Mrs. H gave Thea the word Geography. Thea spelled it wrong. That meant that if I got this word right, I would win. I drew a deep breath and started to spell.


"That is correct!" grinned Mrs. H. "We have our champion." Mrs. H presented me with a certificate. I felt a tremendous joy engulf me. I did it!

Winning the Spelling Bee was one of the happiest moments of my life. I will never forget this experience. I also know that I'll never hate Geography again!

Voice/Word Choice: 4

In this response the wording is expressive and engaging, conveying a strong sense of the writer throughout the story. The voice is well-suited for the purpose and audience, and the language is specific, precise and varied throughout.
Every year on Christmas Eve, my family and I open a maximum of 3 presents. One year on that special occasion was a night I will never forget. It was a time in my life that I felt above and beyond happy!

It was Christmas Eve night and my family, and I had just finished dinner and were getting settled on the couch with our grandparents. We were all very fidgety as we waited for mom and dad to announce the person who would open the presents first. Being the oldest child, I knew it was me who would go first. My excitement was correct; I quickly scrambled down from the couch on to the ground where my gifts waited for me to open them, practically shouting my name! I opened the first one, then my brother, opened one, next my sister, and last but not least, my littlest brother opened his. We repeated this pattern until there was one left for everyone. My heart beat fast, one last present for tonight. I slowly picked up the present and savoring each moment, unwrapped it.
I saw one glimmer of and burst into tears! It was the MP3 player I had wanted all year!

I sprinted over to mom and dad and gave them an oversize bear hug! My brothers and sister and grandparents kept demanding what I received! I was too choked up with emotions to reply, so mom finally said I had gotten an MP3 player and that was a time that I felt above and beyond happy! Have you ever felt that way?

Voice/Word Choice: 4

In this response the wording is expressive and engaging, conveying a strong sense of the writer throughout the story. The voice is well-suited for the purpose and audience, and the writer effectively creates tension and builds anticipation with the use of specific, precise and varied language throughout the story.
About one year ago, I got a new skateboard. It all started when I got on my grandma's computer. My old skateboard broke so I looked on a skateboarding website. I looked through the decks, or wood part, to see if there were any that I liked. I finally found the one I liked. I showed it to my grandma and she liked it too. It was a bamboo skateboard with stripes on the bottom. I picked blue grip-tape to go on the top. After my mom came and got me, we went home. I brought the computer with me to show them.

When I got home, I showed my parents. They liked it so they clicked order by it. It cost 29.99, but it cost 35.00 altogether because of shipping and handling. It said it would be here 6 to 8 days. Those were the longest days of my life. While it was coming I had to use my little brothers. It wasn't very good but good enough until my new one got here. I bet your wondering why I only got the
Deck, and that's because if you buy the wheels & trucks with it, they aren't very good. I have ones that are really good.

When the skateboard got here I just about freaked out I was so happy. I got it fixed up as fast as possible so I could ride it. After it got fixed it took it for a spin and it rode smooth and only turned when I wanted it to. Also it flipped really easy.

The next day I rode it to school. My friends really liked it. Even some of the teachers liked it. After school, I rode home with my brother Tobin. He asked to ride it about twenty-five times so I let him. He rode it all the way home and wouldn't give it back. That is how I got my new skateboard.
"Where going where?" I screamed in excitement. During spring break in Omaha, I experienced something great.

It was a boring day at Nebraska Furniture Mart. I then saw a Burger King. I was so hungry. It was half past one and I hadn't had lunch yet. "Dad, can we eat at Burger King?" I pleaded. "No," he replied. "We're going somewhere better." We were walking towards Grandma.

Since I knew he wouldn't talk, I just asked my grandma, "Grandma, they said something about pizza." "Well," it was supposed to be a surprise, but we were going to that pizza place with the machines." Dad said. "Oh my god!" I yelled. "I can't be false this! I was so excited. I had never gone there before, but I hear it's really fun!"
When we got there, we ate their amazing food, then played some games, I won over one thousand from one game, then did go-karts, mini glow bowling, glow golf, and a ride called "Wild Ride."

I will never forget that amazing day. That was so fun, I was the luckiest, happiest person alive that day.

Voice/Word Choice: 3

In this response the wording is generally expressive, and conveys a sense of the writer. The voice is generally appropriate for the purpose and audience, and language is generally precise and varied.
Wow! This is going to be so fun.
I'm going to tell you about the time I learned how to snowboard.
Once I got to Pioneers Park I grabbed my snowboard and headed for the hills. After me and my brother locked are feet onto the snowboard my dad watched us zoom down the hill.

When I got the hang of it I tried to go down the slide. But that didn't work so I went back to the hills. Where my dad and my two brothers were. It was kind of hard but then easy to snowboard. Later that day I thought to myself I can't believe I learned how to snowboard.

That day was one of the funnest days ever. I couldn't be so happy to learn something that I thought I could never learn.
I will never forget the time I learned how to snowboard. I hope
you can have the same experience as me.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

In this response the wording is occasionally expressive, and conveys a limited sense of the writer. A weaker voice is somewhat lifeless and inappropriate for the purpose and audience, and the language is only occasionally specific and precise.
The time I went some place fun was when I went to Worlds of Fun. It was a hot summer day and we decided to take a trip to Kansas City. When we got there we went to my aunt's house for a little bit.

After that we were headed to Worlds of Fun. When we go in we ate some hotdogs. Then we went on a roller coaster ride called the Mamba. It was the craziest ride I had ever been on. I had some cotton candy after the ride then I went on another one.

Later on when it started closing we started to head home. It was the best day I had ever had in my whole entire life. When we got home we planned the next time summers we would go to Funplex.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

In this response the wording is occasionally expressive, and conveys a limited sense of the writer. While the voice is somewhat appropriate for the purpose and audience, the language is only occasionally specific and precise.
I was very happy when my mom's friend brought my cute, tiny puppy home. It all started when my cute dogs ran away from home. I was sad when I lost them. So later, I ran upstairs to ask mom if I can look for them. But then she said her friend found them, and I became really happy.

Voice/Word Choice: 1

In this response the wording is lifeless and mechanical, and conveys little sense of the writer. The voice is inappropriate for the purpose and audience, and the language is not specific, precise or varied.
When my Grampa bought two horses and a dog, I felt happy. He got them at marshes and brought them in a horse trailer. Horses that names are Creen and Wimpe. I was the first one out to see the horses and a dog that is the happy time in my life.

Voice/Word Choice: 1

In this response the wording is lifeless and mechanical, and conveys little sense of the writer. The voice is inappropriate for the purpose and audience, and the language is not specific, precise or varied.
Sentence Fluency / Conventions
My Happy Plane Ride

When I first heard I was going on a plane alone, I felt there was no one happier than me. I was crouched on my knees on my hot pink shag carpet in my bedroom. My hands had finally gotten the feeling of folding my small, little clothes. I looked down into my suitcase and smiled. The day had come that I was finally traveling alone. I managed to stand up and plop down on my bed. Slowly, I fell asleep. Before I knew it I had woken up. The clock on my wall told me it was 6:00 AM. I stood up and opened my door. All the lights in the house were on. "Get dressed and get in the car!" Mom shouted from upstairs. I looked down and saw I was wearing my outfit from yesterday. "Eh!" I grabbed my suitcase and carry on and jumped in the car.

Only minutes later, we were at the airport and I was already boarding the plane. I looked back once and saw a tear roll down my mom's face. After a flight attendant seated me next to two older kids, I put my carry on on top of my lap. My hand dove in the bag and pulled out a small, red phone with a note attached to it. The note said: This phone is for when you travel, call me! Love mom. I smiled. I opened the phone and dialed her number. "Hello?" Oh Bailey, I'd thought you'd never
"find this!" I could hear Mom snuffling as she talked. A woman in uniform walked by, pointed to my phone, and shook her finger. "Got to go Mom! Love you!" I hung up. I put the phone back inside my bag and pulled out a magazine, my iPod Touch, and head phones. I plugged my head phones in and opened the magazine. Soon I looked down and saw we were landing. I joined the huge crowd running off the plane with our things. My Aunt Lorrie ran out of nowhere and hugged me. "You've grown," she shrieked. I nodded and didn't talk. While she stopped lathering I grabbed my phone and tried to call Mom again. She didn't pick up.

When we got home, I unpacked all my belongings into the guest room's dresser. I quickly fell asleep on the comfy bed. I woke up at midnight and watched the sunrise.

I'll never forget this because I felt my parents finally discovered they can trust me. Now I fly alone all the time. When I do I remember this and smile.
Halloween

I don't like to be scared but I love scary things. This is why this night was so happy and special to me.

"Halloween!" I yelled into the moonlit sky. Tonight was my favorite night of the year. I felt like excitement was just going to burst out of me. As my brother and I walked across the cool, concrete pavement, I almost leaped with joy. The scariest house in our whole neighborhood was giving out soda. First, I assured my little 6-year-old brother that nothing was real and then I bolted off.

When Leo finally caught up with me, I didn't have any time to think. I urgently rushed over to the porch steps filled with "Beware" or "Do Not Enter" signs and lit jack-o-lanterns. I knocked on the door and a smiling older man greeted us, complimented our
costumes, which were scary goth, skeleton bride and a Star War’s clone trooper; then gave us both 1 bottle of Sierra Mist soda. My favorite!

I cordially said, "Thank you" and "Happy Halloween" to the couple and then dashed to the next house and then almost all the houses in our neighborhood. Then tiredly Leo and me started to walk home. When we arrived we both sat on our front steps and traded our candy. I looked up into the dark black sky. I was tired and exhausted but yet full of happiness and joy.

I will never forget that Halloween night. I loved it and so did my brother. I can’t wait till next year!

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 4

Sentences vary in length and structure throughout this story about Halloween. Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are consistently correct.
Have you ever received a Bird book and have wanted to write a report on it? I have and let me tell you, you should try it. My favorite part about it was the report and the reading.

First thing I did after I ate cake was open presents. The first gift I grabbed had bright pink paper and a purple bow. I tagged the purple bow off, and ripped off the pink paper. Then I saw a brown box. So I ripped off the lid. Then I saw the most amazing sight. There in the brown box was a Bird book, just what I wanted! I said my thanks and sat on the couch.

Finally when I was flipping through the pages I stopped at the Ruby-throated Humming bird. I read about them from my book I decided to write a report on them. So I grabbed my journal and wrote down facts for my report.

Well there you have it. I love birds and doing reports on them.
That's the story of the time I did a report on a bird.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this story about a bird. Phrasing generally sounds natural. Run-ons do not confuse the reader. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are usually correct. A few errors do not distract the reader.
The New Baby

Hurry up dad I want to go see my new baby sister. So my dad put on some clothes and ran out of the door and put me in the back of the car and Boom! Out we go to see the new baby.

So when my dad and I got to Saint Mary's Hospital we had a race to see who could get to the Main Doors first. But my dad won because I was three so it was hard for me to run.

When we got to the lobby my dad went to ask were room 431 was. The lady said “you take a left walk straight then take another left then you go up the stairs and take a right.” Then
you are there! So we did all of that and ran to room 431.

All of the doctors and nurses were trying to get the baby out.

I was so excited but then the baby had not come out and the nurse said “the baby will not come out for two more days.” My mom was so sad. But the baby came out the next morning at 7:59. I started to yell “Yay!!” Then my mom said “oh hi Claire and Rob.” I didn’t even know that you were here! What are you going to name her? Rachel! That’s a good one. That is what I will name her honey. Cool! That’s a pretty name. Can I hold her? No let me and your dad hold her first. Then maby you ok? OK!” I yelled. We
Are you lucky! Let's go home and feed her now! OK! Let's go then. VROOM! Out we go! Now I am not the only child, I have a baby sister!
I was sitting on my couch having a horrible day. My action figure was supposed to come today. But the mailman had already passed by. I said to my mom, "It was supposed to come today wasn't it?" I looked out the window and it was like, "No man's land out there." I said to my mom, "It's over, he isn't coming. It's been 3 hours since the mailman came. He'll never gonna come a couple of hours past by." I said to my mom, "Do you think it's gonna come?" I don't know," said my mom.

Then a big UPS was coming down the street. I started to say mom a big UPS truck is coming down the street. And I really started to get happy. It's parked in our driveway. And I was exited. It was my toy it finally came.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure in this story about waiting for a delivery. Fragments and run-ons, especially in the failed attempts at dialogue, sometimes confuse the reader. Errors in grammar, usage, punctuation (especially missing quotation marks), and spelling are evident and may distract the reader. Phrasing occasionally sounds unnatural.
Yes! I thought as I climbed on the bus to the field trip. I hope this will be as fun as I think it will be. Who knows maybe this will be one of my best times of my life.

When we arrived at the old looking building, our teacher Mrs. H separated us.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure in this brief story about a field trip. Phrasing sounds somewhat natural. The few errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling, may distract the reader.
When I got my red Swiss Army knife I was so happy. I felt like
boosing off walls but it was so dull. So I told my grandpa to sharpen my knife. He said yes then we went to my
grandpa and grandma’s house and I can sharpen my knife. I watched
my grandpa sharpen my knife. It looked hard but he said it was
easy so I tried it and it was easy so he told me I can sharpen
my own knife. That was a time. I felt good.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

Numerous grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors distract the reader throughout this story about a Swiss Army knife. Fragments and run-ons confuse the reader, and phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural.
It all started on my birthday when me and mom and brother and dad when me and my mom and my dad went to the go cart and the game and it was fun. I wish I could go next year.