ENE333

NeSA-Writing

2014

GRADE 4

Writing

Scoring Guide
Writing Topic

Think of an activity you enjoy.

Choose a time you experienced this activity with friends, family, classmates, or by yourself.

Write a story with a beginning, middle, and end, so that the reader will be able to understand what happened. Include specific details so that anyone who reads it will understand exactly what happened.
CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE
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
The Soccer Game

I stepped into the white, sparkling car with all of my soccer gear on and the blue side of my soccer shirt showing. My heart was already leaping with joy at the thought of my first game with my new teammates—I had missed two, one cancelled, and the other time it was a tie. But somehow, deep within, I felt we were going to win. And as we reached Field Five, the farthest away, I was even more sure.

Our team gathered behind our side of the bench. Shortly after, we went to sit down on the bench to decide who we would be: 1st defender, 2nd defender, left wing, center mid, and right wing. In what seemed like no time at all, we were winning, 3-0. And then I was out to center mid. Running with Gabby and Cheyanne was no problem. Getting close to the goal was. Weaving in and out of the real team, we got open for passes. All of the sudden, a beauty was 5 yard away.
from us.

A defender and a goalie was all that stood in front of the three of us and the goal. The defender ran up to me because I had the ball and blocked a pass to Gabby. I passed to Cheyanne and the defender moved to her. She passed back to me and the goalie blocked a path to Gabby. Be fore they realized that they had created an open way for my shot, I pulled back my leg in triumph, and I sent the ball flying straight into the heart of the goal. I heard the team cheering in the back ground, and I smiled from ear to ear.

"Good shot, Brit!" Cheyanne shouted. "Good pass, Cheyanne!" I complimented. Gabby held out her hand for a high five and I slapped it. When we reached coach Mike, he smiled at our compliments. "Great job, girls!" He shouted. "We are on fire! Although we are team Galaxy, he jokingly
We had just got out of our spots, and went jogging back to the bench to sit out for a few minutes. I watched as the other girls ran and scored goals, remembering how it had felt. How it felt to score my first goal with my new team mates in my first game.

I went through several more positions as the rest of the day went on. In the end, our team won 8-0. I felt happy to even be a part of it. I could not have been a part. I will always remember my first game with my new team, and that one second when I scored my first goal.

Ideas/Content: 4

In this response the writer creates a clear understanding of the events of the story, and the content is well-focused on the soccer game and scoring the first goal with a new team. The writer has provided numerous relevant details and the storyline is logical, well developed, and easy to follow throughout.
Florida Flight

We had all our bags packed for Florida. My family was rushing to the huge sign that read FLRDA 8:00 AM 2B, while the PA system boomed, "Florida lane 2B, eight A.M. ready to fly."

I was small, but I insisted I didn't need the baby seat. I can sit with the grown-ups. When the roaring plane took off, my ears popped. Since I was so little, it hurt very bad, like my ears were exploding. Grandma gave me gum, but I absolutely needed a neck-pillow like the grown-ups. Gram got me my pink fluffy neck-pillow with a soft blanket and I felt asleep. When I woke up I was sitting next to daddy, and I had a cheese-burger and fries infront of me.

"Lunchtime," he said, "only a little"
more until we make it to Florida. I sipped my nummy ginger-ale, and ate my meal with a dessert of animal crackers.

I saw the ocean along the shore side of the land, animals played, and tiny people splashed. The lands were elevated at different levels, birds were beneath us, everything was so beautiful, and the plane drifted lower and lower until it hit the ground...

And my ears popped... the best part of enjoying the plane ride.

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Ideas/Content: 4  4-4-4-4

In this response the writer creates a clear understanding of the events of the story, and the content is well-focused on the topic of a flight to Florida. The writer has provided numerous relevant details about the airplane trip, and the storyline is logical and easy to follow throughout.

Nebraska Statewide Pilot Prompt  2013
One warm sunny day in October when the leaves were red and orange and they slept upon the fields, I had upon plans. I was headed toward Stinson Park, walking at a leisurely pace in the slight chill. I skipped all the way until I got to Stinson Park. I saw my friends there, playing soccer and just flying kites, and I was just talking. After I hopped to my friends, we started a new game. It was
exhilarating, but we
won seven to a whooping
zero. Then I went
to fly kites. They
somersaulted and danced
in the wind. Eventually,
it was time to
leave.

I traced my steps
home, had a hearty
and delicious dinner, and
went to bed soon
after.

I’ll always remember
flying the kites on
that fun day, and
hope to fly
kites again.

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 day at Stinson Park. While the conclusion suggests that the main activity in the story appears to be about flying kites, much of the content is focused on the journey to and from the park and playing soccer, leaving the central idea of the story less well developed. The writer has provided adequate related details and the storyline is logical and easy to follow. More numerous relevant details and elaboration about the activity of flying kites would improve the Ideas/Content score.
Gogo's Crazy Bones

Do you like toys? I do. My favorite are Gogo's Crazy Bones. Basically, Gogo's Crazy Bones (or Gogos for short) are these little plastic toys that cost around $2. Well, one day I was playing with my Gogos and my sister asked, "If I wanted to play Gogo Village, I had to say "yes," otherwise my mom would yell at me. I asked my sister how to play and she said to divide them up based on their color. She picked up her bag and walked over to me. I started to sort my Gogos as quick as possible. My sister got a bin of toys and she dumped out the toys so the bin was a volcano. We put the red Gogos by the volcano and the blue Gogos by the river (blanket seat). We first played as the green
A gogo's of agriculture, one of her gogos asked "how are your crops doing?" "Well," my gogo said "very slowly," I could tell you about the fun we had for 5 more paragraphs, but I have to wrap this up.

After we were done playing, I packed up my gogo's and went to my room, the lay down and rest. To remember this fun activity I did with all 8 of my gogos.

I will never forget the fun time my sister and I had playing gogo village.

Idea/Content: 3

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 played "Gogo Village" with a sister. While some related details about the game are included, they are not numerous and do not provide enough details about Gogo Village or make it clear as to why it was such a enjoyable activity. The writer cut short the main idea without telling the reader more (5 more paragraphs worth) about the game and the fun they had. The storyline is however, generally logical and easy to follow.
IS Flag Football a dangerous sport? I'll answer that. NO it's not. I love flag football. But some people say it's dangerous. I just ignore them.

My name is Kaleb S. and my hobby is flag football. Flag Football is an amazing sport. Well that's my opinion.

This weekend I have a game! I'm so excited until I'm not so excited anymore because my game got canceled and my practice. geez what a day I've had! First my laptop broke, then my game got canceled. What's next a broken bone? I'm so bummed out.

So since my game got canceled my mom took me out for ice cream. Then the ice cream store was out of my favorite ice cream. So then I just asked my mom if we can go to the movies. She said sure. So when we got
to the movies we saw the movie
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone.
And I was crying because it was so funny. So when the movie was over we went home and my mom said "Sorry your game was canceled." So I just thought to myself "Enjoy it while you have it."

Ideas/Content: 2

In this response the writer creates a limited understanding of the events of the story. The content is not particularly focused on the idea of flag football, and the details regarding the activity are limited. A severe digression from the topic is evident as the writer first details things that went wrong with the day and then goes on to discuss going out for ice cream and to a movie. These unrelated details make the storyline become vague and the central idea of flag football being the activity you enjoy is lost.
My favorite activity is exercise because I like being healthy and strong. My other favorite activity is boxing because I like it. I also like punching the boxing bag with my uncle in the basement. Also, because I like getting stronger and faster, I want to be in the Olympics. You need to be healthy and exercise. Hopefully, I'll be in first place and have a trophy of my own! I'll go to schools and meet kids. I will donate to charities and schools. I'll be at the gym working out for five hours. I'll represent the family. Then, I'll retire. I want to grow to be a Olympian! This will be a great legend! I'll be rich and famous.

Ideas/Content: 2

In this response, the writer creates a limited understanding of the events of the story. While the writer seems to have lots of ideas, the content is not particularly focused on the activity of exercise or boxing, and the supporting details are limited. The content has some digressions from the main idea as the writer fails to write a story about a time they experienced the activity. Unrelated and occasionally random details create a somewhat vague, limited storyline.
I got on the roller coaster.
I went up a big hill. Then we fast down the hill. I got splashed by water and got off. I went on aspin thing and it spun real fast. Then I got real dizzy and got off. I almost threw up. I go on another roller coaster and went super fast. Then I went through a donut shape. Then scary materials started popping out of nowhere.

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In this response, the writer creates little understanding of the events of the story. While the central idea is about going on some rides at Adventure Land, supporting details are lacking and the storyline is disconnected and appears to be a somewhat repetitious list of random thoughts.
Have you ever played soccer? Will I did. When I was in my backyard of my house, we had fun even I made 3 goals all ready the other kids hadn't goals. I was winning, me and my cousin we were born in 2002. Then, they make two more goals at me, I was so angry, I did four goals and one more goal, so the end I won the game eight to four.

Ideas/Content: 1

In this brief response, the writer creates little understanding of the events of the story. While the storyline seems to be about a game of soccer in the backyard, supporting details (other than the number of goals) are lacking. The content digresses from the topic with the introduction of some random details that are disconnected from the storyline.
Organization
First Game

As I walked on the field, I felt the cool air breeze blow in my face. I was getting fired up for my first soccer game of the season. Questions rolled and churned in my head. Was the team hard? (We didn't know because there weren't any standings yet). But I wasn't worried. My team was good. We would win for sure.

Coach put me in as starter right striker. The ref blew his whistle which signaled me to pass the ball to one of my teammates. So I did so. My fellow striker then dribbled the ball back to our center midfielder and he dribbled off down the field. I ran in line with him and he crossed the ball to me. I shot but the goalie got a lucky grab. He threw it to his right midfielder and he drove up the line. He passed the ball far up to his right striker. He shot and made it. There was a loud groan from the sidelines. But also many cheers. But my team wiped it right off. One goal wasn't
going to stop us. We scored a goal. I estimated about 5-10 minutes later. Which tied the game up 1-1.

By halftime the score was 2-2. Coach gave us an encouraging pep talk and we were back on the field. I was once again at striker. I passed it to the other striker and he passed it back to our left midfielder. But he got the ball stolen from him while doing a move. The kid who had stolen the ball dribbled up to the goal and made his shot. But we came back and tied it up again.

With five minutes left in the game it was 4-4. The ball went back and forth between teams until I stole the ball and dribbled down the field. I did a trick on one fullback, two fullbacks and succeeded. Then... I took the shot... and... GOAL!!! Yelled the ref and players and teammates on the sidelines. The other team got the ball back to the line as quick as they could, but right
When they kicked off, the ref blew his whistle to signal the end of the game.

I was so happy after that I had won the game for our team. That one point got us in third place of the standings which made me even happier. But I might forget that day sadly. Because I win so many other games.

Organization: 4

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is effective in this story about the writer's first soccer game of the season. Effective transitional phrases at the beginning of each paragraph successfully connect the main ideas together, and pacing is very well-controlled throughout the response. A satisfying conclusion that successfully refers back to the discussion of the team standings is effective. Paragraphing is sound.
"Gotcha," my brother said smirking. We were outside in the freezing cold, playing ghost in the graveyard. At midnight we had some of our friends over. My friends were Faith & Jordan. Jordan was 8, Faith & I were both 9 almost 10. My brothers friends were Tom, Anthony & Riley. They were all 14 except for Tom. He was 12 & he is also Faiths older brother. Ghost in the graveyard was something we all enjoyed. I love playing it with friends.

The game started at 11:45 tonight. All of our friends were spending the night. We had nothing to do so we decided to play ghost in the graveyard. We used my front & backyard. Since Tom & Faith lived next door, we used there yard too. We did bubble gum bubble gum in a dish & my brothers Blake ended up 1st. He started counting to 45. "1, 2, 3." He said. We all took off running in different directions. I stopped in the middle of my yard to catch my breath. Jordan & Faith appeared out of nowhere. "C'mon guys, lets all hide together," Faith said. We followed her into her backyard.
We decided to hide behind some lawn chairs. We could see Blake counting, "41, 42, 43, 44, 45."
He said. He started walking towards the gate. I saw Tom, Anthony, & Riley crawl out of bushes & walk to base. (The patio) They made it. "Ok, so you guys are gonna climb the fence & get on base. I will come later." They took off running towards base. They made it! I looked around & as I was about to get up I heard Blake say "Gotcha!" I turned around & say Blake smirking, "I don't think so." I said. I crawled under his leg & took off running. I heard him behind me. I made it to my backyard. Blake was gaining on me. I ran faster though. I made it! "VICTORY!" I shouted while jumping up & down.
I just won, was all I could think about. I couldn't believe that I beat my brother. I was so happy that I started dancing. After my dance, we went inside. We were exhausted.
I love playing ghost in the grave yard. I really enjoy it. My brother was shocked that I beat him. I really do love playing
I, ghost in the graveyard with my friends.

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is effective in this story about playing an outdoor childhood game. Transitions effectively connect the main events of the story in a chronological order. While the pacing is less well-controlled in the opening paragraph with an extended introduction of all of their friends and their ages, it improves throughout the response and concludes with a satisfying description of the feeling of joy in claiming victory over the “older” brother. Paragraphing is sound.
"Wow, this is one bumpy trail," I said to my dad as we were on a bike ride. This was the time I went on a fantastic bike ride.

It all started one nice warm Saturday around noon. I was riding my bike to go get the mail a couple houses down. When I got back, my dad said, "Hey Laney, want to go on a bike ride with me to the gas station to get some snacks?"

So I said, "Sure, why not.

"Weeeee," I said riding down the hill. "Hey, wait up, Laney," my dad said panting. "I can see the gas station from here; dad, it's about a block away."

"Great," He said, "Whew, we're finally here."

I said after about 5 min. later, "Alright, let's go get some of our energy back.

Dad said, So, we got gatorade, candy bars and little pop candies. Then we were back on the road. (Or should I say trail). "Hey Sally, (that's my nickname at home,) sho-
"Will we take the field or the sidewalk?"
"Definitely the field," I said all excited. "Whoo! This field is really bumpy." My dad said in a bouncy voice. About 10 min later we were home taking a nap because we were so tired I can't even tell you. That bike ride was the best. I loved it so much, I want to go on way more. Like maybe every day. I want to go on a family bike ride every Wednesday.

That was a story of the best thing ever in my life! I L-O-V-E bike rides!!!! Bike riding is the thing I enjoy most!!!!!!

Organization: 3

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is functional in this story about a bike ride. While the opening sentence attempts a hook to engage the reader and foreshadow the bumpy ride ahead, the story only briefly mentions a bumpy ride and the ending is disappointing. The final two paragraphs do not influence or benefit the story and do not create a satisfying conclusion to the narrative. Pacing and paragraphing are therefore generally successful rather than well-controlled and sound.
One day I went on a field trip to the Scotts Bluff Monument with my class. We left the school at 7:15 a.m. Before we went to the monument, we stopped at a Visitor's Center. When I looked up I saw a lot of red stuffed owls! The lady teaching us talked about what lived in Wildcat Hills, and then we went on a little hike. She taught us about some tracks we saw. When we back, we went downstairs to do an activity. When we were there we saw a big beehive with bees in it! When we started the activity, my partner and I went over to look at the bees. We noticed that the hive had a tunnel so the bees could go outside. We went to do the activity and then we saw a real stuffed mountain lion and a white tailed deer! They were set up to look like the mountain lion was chasing the deer. We finished the activity and then we left. We had lunch at the monument, and then we started our hike. It was a long hike because the whole thing was uphill. When we finally
got to the cave, the rock felt powdery. There were also handprints engraved in the rock. We went out the other end and kept going. We got to a part where the trail zig-zagged while still going up. We never made it to the top, but we got really close! Then we started going back down. We watched a little PowerPoint before we went back to the school. We got back at 4:30 p.m. That was the time I went to the Scotts Bluff Monument with my class.

Organization: 3

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is present in this story about a field trip to the Scotts Bluff Monument. Transitions that are somewhat functional and repetitious connect the ideas of the story together in a generally chronological timeline. Paragraphing is generally successful even though it is not formatted correctly. Pacing is very generally controlled and a simple introductory sentence and a weak concluding sentence are not effective or engaging.
My Tablet

Do you have a Tablet? I do. My mom and dad bought me one. It cost a lot of money to buy it. I play it every single day. I put a lot of games in my Tablet.

I put a lot of games like Subway Surfers, Flow, and other games. My Tablet's cover is purple. Purple is my favorite color and that's why I picked purple for my Tablet's cover. My 2 brothers and sister always ask for it but sometimes I say "yes" or "no". My Tablet's charger is purple too. It only takes 1 hour for my tablet to charge.

I always take my tablet and charger everywhere I go. I always take really, really good care of my tablet. My mom and dad
Say if I take good care of my Tablet they'll buy me a GoGoPillow so I don't have to carry my Tablet and charger. I love my Tablet I never want to lose it. My Tablet is the best thing my mom and dad have bought me. Now you know about my Tablet, now you tell me about yours.

Organization: 2

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is limited in this story about a tablet. The writer, having failed to tell a story about a time he/she enjoyed an activity, has simply provided a somewhat random list of ideas describing some details about the tablet. Transitions are weak or missing and pacing is inconsistent. While there appears to be a simple introduction and ending, paragraphing is mostly ineffective.

Nebraska Statewide Pilot Prompt 2013
I remember a time back when my first pet was a cat. I was five years old, and my family had a cat named Gigi. She was very friendly and loved to play with me. One day, while we were outside playing, I saw a little black cat on the sidewalk. It was cute and playful, and I asked my parents if I could have it as my pet. They said yes, and I was overjoyed. I named her Kota. She became my best friend, and we did everything together. She was always by my side, and she made me happy. We played fetch, went for walks, and had so much fun. Kota was my first pet, and she taught me to be responsible and take care of others. She was my constant companion until the day she passed away. I miss her so much, and I still think about her often. She was more than just a pet; she was a part of our family.

Organization: 2

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is limited in this story about a first pet. Pacing is somewhat inconsistent with large gaps in the timeline and missing important information, as the writer attempts to cover the entire life of the dog in a fairly brief response. Transitions are weak and paragraphing is somewhat irregular. The story ends abruptly with the introduction of a new idea that is left unexplained, leaving the reader somewhat confused and requiring more information to fully understand the story.
Sempecks

(Vibrating 3 monsterish together)

Wahhh... Doovuuup! That's me in laser tag at Sempecks. It's my 10th b-day party.

I was playing my kindle-fire. We did bowling, the arcade, cake, & gifts.

I will never forget that day.

Organization: 1

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is lacking in this response about a tenth birthday party. Transitions are missing as ideas are presented in a somewhat random order. Pacing is awkward as the ideas lack any development, and paragraphing is ineffective.
One time I was at home. I played my Xbox 360 for a bit. While I was washing the dishes, I watched a movie. The movie was called 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.' After that, I played my Wii. I went to toy 's yard. I got a Hobbit toy. I got Bob the Hobbit and Gandalf the Grey.

Organization: 1

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is lacking in this somewhat brief response about a certain day. Pacing is awkward and the lack of transitions fails to connect the events of the day together. Paragraphing is ineffective and there is no ending.
Voice / Word Choice
It was a cool crisp day. The sun was hiding behind the clouds like it was a mouse hiding from a cat and the wind was blowing like there was no tomorrow. It was fall and I was so excited to carve pumpkins for Halloween. But I should've known something horrible was going to happen to me that day, and that thing was just around the corner.

"We don't want to be late!". Coming!!! I yelled as I grabbed my coat. "Do we have to?" my older sister Erin moaned. I nudged her it will be fun I said.

When we got to the pumpkin place I picked out a huge, thick, monstrous pumpkin. (One of the ones that are almost impossible to cut). Next we hopped back in the car and drove to Kendra's house. Once we got there I pulled the ooey gooey pumpkin guts out of my pumpkin and slapped them
on the table. Slap! Slap! Slap! Soon I got all of the guts out of my pumpkin and began tried to carve my pumpkin. But it was too thick, I broke 5 little carving knives. Then all of a sudden I spotted a real knife.

I stared at the knife it was beckoning me to use it. When no one was looking I grabbed it and began to carve. Everything was going fine until Slap! Splat! Ouch! I looked at my hand blood wouldn't stop pouring out. I dropped the knife and ran to my mom. What have I done I thought. Alie oh my gosh my mom said slowly "You need to go to a hospital NOW!" I told her every thing in the car through sobs. When we got to the E.R the nurse looked at my hand after she wiped away the blood. "Good for you she said! Don't need stitches just glue". I was relieved but good
for me ya right!!!

Once she fixed my finger
we drove back to Kendra's. And there
on the table was a huge pile of
cards. For me!!! I felt so popular.
I'm ok I said when they asked.
I read all the cards and when I
was done night was coming.

Soon stars danced across the
sky and we went home. I will
never forget that pumpkin that made
my scared to do the thing I enjoy.
Clank! My head rushed. I heard screams. Who knew or of my most favorite activities would turn into a bloody disaster?

It was PE Day for Mrs. D’s class. My favorite day of the school week. Right in the morning, my class was moaning and groaning while working on getting old gym shoes. Right as I finished my second shoe, Mrs. D announced it was time for PE. My class lined up swiftly and we excitedly skipped down the hall.

Finally, once we got to the gym, we sat on the big red circle like always.
Mr. K. explained the rules of a relay race. "C'mon!" I thought, we all know how to do a relay! I hadn't realized it, but I was already lined up in a group ready to start the relay!

My group was me, Rhett, Grant, and O'Bryan. I was last. Mr. K.'s voice boomed through the gym. Ready. Set. Go! O'Bryan bolted off and came back to high-five Grant. Grant was already coming back for Rhett. I saw Rhett coming for me so I ran off to receive the high-five. I stepped to the left so I wouldn't run into him. He stepped to the left. I stepped to the right. He stepped to the right. I stepped to the - UCLANG!
My lip hit dead center of Rhett's forehead. I felt dazed. "I'm alright," I said in a shaky voice. At this point, everyone in my class stared at my. Eyes bulged out. I even heard some screams. At this moment, I knew something was wrong. I took my hand off my lip and a pool of blood splattered on the floor. I ran faster to the nurse's office than I had ran in the relay. Once I got there, the nurse cleaned it off and my mom took me to the hospital. I got 2 stitches in my upper lip. I had no idea a PE day could turn into such madness. What a day it was. I split my lip open and my mom passed out in the process of me getting stitches.
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.
"It's almost time to go to the zoo! said Mrs. P through the intercom. (our principal)

Our school was getting ready to go to the zoo. (Because our school read the most books)
I was excited going to the zoo, I couldn't wait to see the animals.

"Time to go," said Mrs. W.

I got on the bus and we left. After a while we got to the zoo. When we went inside the zoo the zoo was really vast. The first place we decided to go first was the Desert Dome. We saw really unique animals. Some were really were really bright and beautiful. Next we went to see the Kingdom of the Night. We saw all different types of animals like fruit bats, crocodiles and alligators. When we were done we went to see the Cat Complex. It was incredible when we saw the lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars and a lioness. I wished I can keep them all.
When we saw the lion it roared and it made me shake a bit. Next we went to see the gorillas. They were so quiet and peaceful!

"They have a lot of hair and wrinkles," I said.

When we went to see the baby gorilla, it was so cute and we kept on tapping on the glass. When the mother came she tapped on the glass as hard as she could. It even startled me. Next we went to see the orangutans. They were so funny one even got inside a bucket. Finally the last place to see was the rainforest. When we went inside we had to cross a bridge. I felt so dizzy just looking down because the bridge was up on the tree-tops. But I made it anyway. We saw snakes, monkeys, parrots and unique birds. When we were done and we left the zoo I said to myself
"I'll never ever forget the time I went to the zoo."

Voice/Word Choice: 3

In this response the wording is generally expressive, and conveys a certain sense of the writer; but not a strong sense of the writer. The voice is generally appropriate for the purpose and audience, and language is generally precise and varied. While some attempts at stronger descriptive language and dialogue have been made, they are not particularly effective, are not always well-suited for the purpose, and are not consistent throughout the story.
Let me tell you about the time I had a activity with my family. I was in my house with my family in summer. My mom said we were going to South Dakota. So we packed up and headed to South Dakota. It took... forever!

5 min later.

I said, "Are we there yet?" Mom said "No!"

"Now?" "No!" said Mom.

4 hours later.

"Are we- No" "Now!" "No!" said Mom.

2 hours later.

"Are we there- Yes! We are here. Finally!"

I said. We had no where to stay so we got to a hotel. Some one forget food so we went to a restaurant. After that we went to sleep. In the morning we got breakfast and drove home. It was fun at South Dakota. I will never forget the time I had a activity with my family.

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. The attempt at humorous dialogue during the car ride helps in creating a sense of an impatient, somewhat sarcastic writer.
Klink Klink That was the sound of the dice hitting the yatze board. It all started when I was on the couch. I got bored so I went outside with my dog and we ran around the yard. My dog got tired and ran to the door so I let her in. I went in with her. I ran upstairs laid in my bed thinking of ideas then it hit me that I could play yatze. So I ran over to my mom's room and said do you want to play yatze? She said yes so we went downstairs and got the box and started playing. It was my turn first so I rolled and I got a Yatzee I screamed in excitement. And thats my story of my favorite activity.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

In this response the wording is occasionally expressive, and conveys a limited sense of the writer. A weaker voice is apparent and an attempt at dialogue does not sound natural. The language is only occasionally specific and precise.
My Activity is with my brother, Luke and sometimes Noah. Luke gets his Legos and I get mine. We go into my room. We both get our houses out. Mines better.

After 20 min Luke says I'm going to quit. But I beg him. Then he stays in my room for 10 more min. So then he says I quit.

Then I yell MOM, DAD.

Then my parents come in and says what I say Luke is going to quit. Then my mom says you play for 30 more mins. Luke says WHAT.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

In this response the wording is occasionally expressive, and conveys a limited sense of the writer. While the voice is sometimes appropriate for the purpose and audience, the language is only occasionally specific and lacks variety.
I went to zoo with my family. I told my mom and dad. If we can go to the desert. My dad said yes. When we got there it was dark. My sister was hugging my hand because she was scared. There were an alligator was swimming under me. My sister was glad that we got out of there.

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.
I can draw a dragon with very strong wings. It breathes ice, fire, shadow, and poison. Its abilities are claw attack, ice cage, shadow reclam, fireblasts. It has unbreakable claws and scales.

I can draw a flower. With pink petals, green stems, and leaves. And a bumble bee.

Voice/Word Choice: 1

In this response about drawing, 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 precise or varied.
Sentence Fluency / Conventions
Let's get this party started!

Whoosh. The cold air blew around my face. The crisp bright sunlight greeted me with a "warm" smile. Today was my 10th birthday and I had so much to do.

Ugh, I couldn't sleep anymore. The world was whirling and twirling. I was dizzy with excitement. Today was finally my 10th birthday. I was as excited as a pet getting adopted. I rolled around trying to go back to sleep, but I just couldn't. I decided to get up and go eat breakfast. It was 7:30 and I didn't know what to do. I didn't want to wake anyone up so I tiptoed to go play with my new beagle, Happy. Once it was 8:30, I decided to call my cousin. We talked and talked and talked until finally, it was party time.

Vroom! Our shiny red car flashed in the bright sunlight. I sat there, wide eyes, jumping up and down and chanting and chanting are we there yet? Chuckie E
Cheese finally came into view. Right as we stopped to a halt, I jumped out and pranced to the big glass doors. Mom carried the party stuff and we went in. Mom talked with the manager, blah, blah, blah. I saw my friend Ealynn and we started to buy tokens. The thing that I was most interested in was the rollercoaster ride. The ride was typically a motion ride, but boy, it was fun! Sway left, sway right, bounce, what fun! Joshua, Bree, and Will came in sight. I greeted them and we started to play. 1 hour later Mom called us to eat pizza. The 3 candles on the screen started to melt. That meant after all 3 candles melted, Chuckie E Cheese himself would party with us. Soon, it was time to go in the Ticket Blaster. I put on my orange, derpy glasses and stepped in. Tickets all sizes and colors were flying around me. I closed my eyes and started grabbing randomly. I caught about 7 beans and 1 loo. My friends congratulated me and I
The day whipped by until it was 4:00. We all had to leave and I was really depressed. But I still had so much waiting for me at home. Of course, this was the best day of my life.

I will always remember that day. I hope I will have another birthday party as wacky as this one. Party time is always around the corner!
The amazing art contest

Scribble! Scribble! Erase! Erase! That was the sound of my sister and I erasing and drawing our weird masterpieces. We had a drawing competition so that's why we were scribbling and erasing. I didn't know why we agreed to have a drawing contest because everyone knew that I would win, right? The contest was held at our house. It was very fun to have a contest with my sister because she is very competitive when it comes to competitions like these.

The whole situation began on a sunny day. My sister, Erica, was drawing on the computer. She saw me drawing a bear. When I looked at the bear, it looked very weird indeed because I accidentally drew carbon eyes on it. Erica laughed at how crazy my bear looked. Before I could even say what I wanted to, Erica asked me if we could have a drawing competition. I shrugged and nodded a yes. Surprisingly, Erica got up out of the seat she was sitting on and cracked her knuckles. "Your going down!" Staring at her, I said "down where?" Both of us laughed.
until our stomachs hurt. We didn't have enough time to draw before dinner so, I quickly grabbed our pencils and paper. Then the contest began in a flash.

Suddenly, I figured out what to draw and now to dominate my sister. "There is no mercy at competitions like these," I thought. Secretly, Erica tried to copy a drawing from a book because she didn't have a flair of drawing to draw, but luckily me, I caught her. Exactly when I caught her, I said, "Hey! That's against the rules!" After about 5-10 minutes or so, we both done drawing our drawings. We carefully compared our drawings. I'm pretty sure I won because I drew a cheetah and she drew a bunny. Don't you think that I won? I told Erica thought that she beat me.

I thought that it wasn't fair that we were judging them ourselves so, I told my sister that we should choose our parents when we showed our parents, they dropped in amazement. In the end, we ended up in a tie and eating dinner.
Brushing our teeth and going to sleep.
And that was the time my sister and I shared my favorite activity together.
I hope you liked my story! Having drawing competitions is a very fun activity for me because I enjoy it. Maybe you should try having one. That's all. Bye!

By: Stephanie M

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 4

Sentences vary in length and structure throughout this story about a drawing contest between sisters. Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. Although the writer continually fails to capitalize the i, grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are consistently correct.
picture this, a warm hot sunny day at the memorial stadium. I was about six years old at the time. My brother always said you'll never enjoy football. This was the the day I could prove Nebraska football was an activity I can enjoy.

At last it was the day of the game. I woke up earlier than usual that morning because I was super excited of the football game. I got all dressed up in husker red and ready to go. I grabbed my husker hat and sprinted out to my dad's car. It seemed like hours but we finally arrived at the memorial stadium. First we had to take gate.

There was so many yummy choices to choose from. Remember I was only six I didn't get pop. According to my dad it was a special occasion. I got my favorite orange crush. I love tailgating I thought. Tailgating ended so we headed
to our seats. Wow! I gasped at looking more amazed than ever.

Then hot sun beam on my face, Geesh its hotter then I expected I thought to myself, I didn't know if I could naave it through the game. The huskers made a touchdown and everyone cheered. Geesh its very loud to loud and sunny. Ugh! Otherwise I was enjoying. Soon balloons popped and I screamed with fear. I was not and sweaty, I LOVED what I had seen but I couldn't handle it anymore so I told my dad. He understood so he called my mom and she came and picked me up. I told my brother and dad how much I enjoyed it but it was too hot. I couldn't tell if brother believed me. At my mom arrived. I took big gulps of water and we drove off. I wished I had not left.
This is an activity that I will never forget. I enjoyed this football game more than anything. But I don't think I will do it again until I'm older. I learned something new. I don't do football for now.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this story about a trip to Memorial Stadium. Phrasing generally sounds natural. Some errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are evident, but the errors do not distract the reader.
Fire Up!

The sounds of explosions, fiery lights dancing in the sky. It's Independence Day. What I love about Independence Day is when I get with my friends and enjoy the fireworks.

Around noon my dad rushes to buy fireworks. There's a tent near Bagn's ave that sells them. My family is preparing to leave when I came back. Around 5:00 we leave to my friends house. "Hi! Come in." Greeted in I zoom to the play room with my friends.

"So what do you want to do? We always start with tag in the backyard. After 10 min we eat dinner and we eat really fast. "Go play, were starting in an hour?" As we play along the golden sun night falls and we prepare for the show. "Okay, fire up." As everyone takes turns we watch the fire work run across the sky. Gloriously the night turns into a
Colorful sights. When we were done, we sat in the backyard and enjoyed it.

I felt relax as I watched the gorgeous tights. All went well and I sighed.

That's what I love to do in my days. All that well ends well.
"ZZZZZZ" is the sound of me sleeping. I always love to go to sleep. My bed is nice and warm from my heating pad and my pillows are as soft as clouds. I always like watching tv from my bed and not the couch because the couch is firm and my bed is softer. I used to hate my bed because it was always cold because I am over the garage so I always slept in the basement but my parents got me a heating pad for my bed so my bed is always warm now.

In the morning my mom has to drag me out of bed because my bed is so warm but my room is cold.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

Sentences only occasionally vary in length and structure in this story about the writer's love for their bed. Phrasing occasionally sounds unnatural. Over extended, run-on sentences sometimes confuse the reader. A number of errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are evident in this brief response, and may distract the reader.
Crazy Hair Day

To begin with, in the morning I went to the library because I won Crazy Hair Day. I felt proud of myself.

Next, I was on the announcements and I said my name, room number in front of the whole school. My hair was colored and I had pony tails. I felt funny when everybody saw me.

Finally, I went to the classroom everybody was clapping for me. I was feeling great.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

Sentences occasionally vary in length or structure in this brief story about a crazy hair contest. Phrasing occasionally sounds somewhat unnatural. Run-ons sometimes confuse the reader. Errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling, may distract the reader.
One day on a sunny day, I was going golfing with my dad. We were at the golf course. Got on 1st hole swung, hit the fairway. Went to the fairway.

Hit the ball on the green. Drove to the green. Hit the ball in the hole. Went to the club and checked out.

Got in the car went home. That was the 1st time golfing.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

Sentences seldom vary in length or structure in this story about playing golf. Fragments throughout the composition confuse the reader, and phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural. Numerous grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors distract the reader.
We went to a friend's. We went on a plane. We went downtown. We went to a hotel. We played games. We went to a hot tub. We went to swimming there. We went to eat. After getting on a boat it was fun. We went to a go-kart race. We went to a zoo. We pet a hippo. We went to buy a golf cart. We played and we went to a jet. We watched the boy we sent 5 months there. We went to the friend's house and we went to play pool. We went to an ice rink. We got kicked out. Some playing hockey. Dog food did a Beck it was fun.
She wanted to return to the beach. We went back.