ENE433

NeSA-Writing

2015

GRADE 4

Writing

Scoring Guide
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
All people experience special moments in their lives.

Think about one celebration or event that you remember well. It could be an individual, family, school, or community event.

Write a personal story with enough important details so the reader understands exactly what you experienced.
Ideas / Content
“Mall of America”

“Wow! Look at that store!” That was my family and I walking through the Mall of America to celebrate my birthday. Let me tell you about it.

First, my family and I drove almost five hours to get to Minneapolis. Once we got there, we checked into our hotel, the Embassy Suites. After that, we went to see the mall. It was so big, it took almost five minutes to drive around the whole thing. When my family and I walked inside, there were SO MANY stores! Even a store about the marshmallow, Peeps!

My family and I walked through and saw lots of stores that we don’t have in Nebraska. In the middle, there was a bunch of roller coasters. Some that even go
upside-down. Some of them looked really scary, like climbing ropes 40 feet in the air! Then, we passed the arcade. It had lots of different games. I played "Dunking Dolphin" which is a basketball game. With my tickets, I bought a chinese finger trap. Next, my family and I passed the American Girl store and I almost screamed! I love American Girl Dolls.

When we got into the store, we looked around. I saw the doll, Kit and immediately wanted to buy her. Kit has short, blond hair and cute little freckles. We also bought her pajamas. In the store, there was also a diner. The store let you borrow a little doll chair so you can eat with your doll. And, they gave you a little cup and plate. I ordered a cheese.
burger and pretzel balls. Yum! I will always remember seeing the American Girl store peek out from behind the roller-coasters. I want to go to the Mall of America again sometime. It was a great experience for me. Maybe you can go to the Mall of America too.
Easter Egg Hunt

"Wow! My cat is a genius!" was the sound of me celebrating Easter. Let me tell you about the time I experienced a special moment.

I just woke up and sleepily wandered into the spacious living room trying not to find any bright eggs without my tall older brother. I accidentally spotted one but I anxiously slapped my soft hand over my eyes so I couldn't get too far ahead. Finally my sluggish family of tortoises were ready. My mom gave me a rough carton to put my super smooth eggs in. I immediately snatched the tiny egg I had found earlier that was hidden in plain sight.

My quietly purring cat was loitering around celebrating too. I had already found eggs in the kitchen and on the shelves. So far I, the short one, looking in high places, and my brother, the skyscraper, was finding
low placed eggs. I followed my slinking feline to a curtain while my brother searched elsewhere. My fingers brushed open the curtain, explaining the cat's knowing eyes. Sitting in the curtain, was my brother's easter basket! My cat found it! I let my hands jerk the curtain shut. My vision scoured for more vividly colored eggs.

Suddenly, with the help of hints from my parents, almost all of the eggs were found. My cartons had about twice the amounts of my brother's. The kitty slowly lead me to the drawer in the kitchen where we keep cat food. I opened it, suspecting she was hungry. In that cabinet lay my easter basket. Brother had found his too. I spotted the last neon egg and propped it in my carton. No more eggs were hidden. I will always remember the

Nebraska Statewide Pilot Prompt  2013
time my cat celebrated Easter with us, I felt amazed that my pet was so observant. Next Easter I will find more of the eggs. I hope she will help me next time too!

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 an Easter egg hunt. The writer has provided numerous relevant details about searching for the eggs with his brother leading to the discovery of the baskets. The storyline is well-developed, logical, and easy to follow throughout.

Nebraska Statewide Pilot Prompt  2013
"It's so HOT!" I panted. It was a exceptionally hot summer day in Nebraska. Even inside with the windows open as wide as elephants and fans pushing the air as fast as a cheetah it made no difference.

"Sam," called my mom.

"Ya, I wheezed back.

"Your aunt and your grandma have a birthday present for you." She said.

I didn't even respond. I jumped to life and ran to my shoes. I slid them on and bolted to the car. My mom and brother sprinted to catch up with me.

Mom kicked the car into gear and we sped to Aunt Jill's house.

Right when we stopped I jumped out of the car and darted up the steps to her backyard gate.

"Sam!" cheered Aunt Jill

She opened the gate and hugged me, and I hugged her back. Luigi jumped on me.

"Hey do I have a surprise for you!" She beamed. She lifted up a pot and a little orangish-brown dog with a curly tail raced out. Luigi and the dog bounded after each other playfully.
I looked at the dog and filled up with joy.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," I said happily.

"Well, we better go," said my mom.

I hugged Aunt Jill and raced down the steps with the dog by my side, and I will never forget the feeling of taking that dog home.

I 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 the special moment the writer got a dog for his birthday. While the storyline is generally logical and easy to follow, much of the content is focused on the events leading up to getting to the aunt's house and the central idea of the story less well-developed. Important details about the new dog and the moment the writer met the dog are missing. The writer has provided adequate related details. More numerous relevant details and elaboration about the special moment of getting the new dog would improve the Ideas/Content score.
A Festive Moment

A special moment in my life was when I had a block party with my community. In my own opinion, it was truly a festive moment that I will never forget to this day. This is a celebration I love to do.

I was scanning the wide-open street for a parade float to come by. When I felt the boring feeling inside me, I got up. Then I started to hear a loud noise coming down from the street. Suddenly a red, blue, and white parade float came by. Then the people on the float began to throw candy onto the gray street.

Everybody beside me had the same feeling to run up to the curve and snatch the candy off the street. My dad quickly came up to me and gave me a plastic bag to put my candy in. With no moment to spare, I swiftly ran up to the curve and got the candy.
I laughed joyfully as I grabbed the candy. During the day, the exciting block party ended. I decided to go inside my house. I slowly sat down in my brown chair as I put a Jaw Breaker inside my mouth. I sighed sadly, knowing the block party was over. I still had a good time.

I will never forget that vivid day. I was like a little Honey Badger scrounging on the street looking for food. But I will miss the tender, juicy, and creamy chocolate filling of a chocolate bar. That's a special moment I will never forget.

Idea/Content: 3 3-3-3-3

In this response the writer creates a general understanding of the events of the story, and the content is generally focused on the writer collecting candy at a parade. While some related details about the parade are included, they are not numerous and do not provide enough details about this special moment. The storyline is generally logical and easy to follow, even though it begins with the idea of a block party for a community and then focuses on just the parade. While the details are adequate, more development of ideas in relation to the block party would be needed to improve the Ideas/Content score.

Nebraska Statewide Pilot Prompt 2013
I like red. I like blue. Do you like Christmas?

Well I sure do.

This happen in 2007 when my brother was a baby. We went to grandma and grandpa's house for Christmas. We stayed for 2 nights. And grandma made homemade beet and noodle soup on Christmas eve.

That night, I was scared because I had a dream that an evil clown was chasing me. Then I woke up and I saw a statue of a clown! On Christmas morning I ran down stairs and...

...I saw my brother in a santa costume! We started opening gifts and I got a remote control truck! My brother got a nursery rhymes book that reads to you. All of the family was there too.
That was the best family Christmas ever.

In this response the writer creates a limited understanding of the events of Christmas 2007. The content is not particularly focused on a central idea, and the development of a story is limited. The storyline is somewhat vague as the writer jumps from one idea to the next without developing each idea adequately. Limited details that in many cases seem unrelated and are left unexplained, do not contribute to the development of the story about Christmas and are somewhat confusing.
Have you ever seen a pilot before? I have and it was amazing. It was at Air Park, with my family. “Wow, I can't believe that I'm seeing a pilot with my own two eyes!” It was a warm summer day on June 22, 2006, “Hurray, Hurray!” Todays the day, were we get to see the Air show at Air Park. I was so anxious that I hit my left hand on the table. My hand didn’t hurt, but my milk spilled and mom was not happy. She told me to stop acting like a 4-year-old, but still its a kids job, I said in a whisper voice.

After 5 minutes pass, my cousin and their parent came to pick us up. Esher and I talked about what the Air shows going to look like, we were excited. “Finally, were here!” I shouted. There were like hundreds or maybe thousands, I thought to myself. “OMG!” A person shouted “There's a pilot!”

Ideas/Content: 2

In this response the writer creates a limited understanding of a story about seeing a pilot at an air show. The content is focused on the events leading up to the air show and the details about the special moment itself are missing. The writer fails to write a story about the special time. Unrelated and occasionally random details that digress from the central idea create a somewhat vague storyline.
I remember a time last summer that my mom and I were going to Mt. Rushmore. I was really excited and happy, but my mom said we leave July 1st.

I was sad that we couldn't leave sooner than later. My mom said we were there for July 4th, but stay from July 1st to 5th.

When our trip was one day away, I could hardly wait. On July 1st, we got up at 6:00. Then we packed and left at 8:00. I will never forget the time I figured out my mom and I got to go to Mt. Rushmore.

Ideas/Content: 1

In this response, the writer creates little understanding of the events of the story about planning a trip to Mt. Rushmore. Supporting details are lacking and the storyline is repetitious and disconnected. The writer has failed to tell a story about a special moment.
My favorite event was traveling from Nebraska to Arizona. When we were driving, we went through Kansas, Colorado, the New Mexico, then we stopped in Albuquerque. Then we went on the bus. Then we saw a lot of mountains. Then finally we were in Arizona. Then my mom came to pick us up. Then we went home to eat some pepperoni and cheese pizza from Papa John's.

Ideas/Content: 1

In this brief response, the writer creates little understanding of the events of the story. While the story is about a trip from Nebraska to Arizona, supporting details are lacking and the development of ideas is minimal. The content is a simply a somewhat random list of places the writer travelled through on the journey to Arizona. The writer has failed to develop the content and has not connected any of the ideas and details together to produce a storyline.
Organization
Christmas

By R.

Have you ever had a surprise that was so huge you couldn't believe it? My mom, K____, my dad, M____, my brother, T____, and I, P____ were headed to my aunt and uncle's house, just a couple of miles in front of the Archway in Kearney, Nebraska, for my dad's side of the family Christmas on December 26th, 2013. I had no idea this was going to turn out being the best Christmas EVER!

To begin, my family and I drove to my uncle, T____'s house. We had a sackful of presents, and food ready to be served for the whole family.

After we got there, we hauled in our presents, and food. MMMMM! We walked in, and I could smell the freshly baked, melt in your mouth
chocolate chip cookies, and the juicy roasted turkey—my favorites. First, we sat and ate, and the boys, like usual watched sports. My aunt makes really good oreo balls, so all the kids ate those. My grandpa, John—who we call Paka, lives in North Platte, so we don’t get to see him that often. Before we opened presents we talked with Paka, and other family, and we played with my cousins five dogs, Cooper, Bella, London, Lulule, and Coda. When present unwrapping starts, the kids sit in a circle. We opened the presents from my grandma and grandpa first. Most of my cousins got two or more, but not me, here I am sitting with one. I love my grandma and all, but usually she likes to make everything fair. When present unwrapping was over there was still one big present left. No one knew who it was for or from. Then, my grandma announced this is for us.
I couldn't believe the big present was for me. When I opened it, I felt like I was going to die. It was the last thing on my Christmas list—a MINIFRIDGE! Better yet, it was a chalkboard too!

In the beginning, I felt quite sad, because everyone had two or more presents, and I only had one. We all know how Christmas is to kids; it's all about the presents, so you can imagine how upset I was. In the end, when the big present was mine, I knew I was spending Christmas with the best people in my life—FAMILY! The lesson I learned was that although events might not go as planned, surprises will turn that frown upside down.

Organization: 4

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is effective in this story about the writer getting a mini-fridge for Christmas. Pacing is very well-controlled throughout the response and effective transitions successfully connect the main ideas together. A strong conclusion that successfully summarizes the writer's feelings and the lessons learned throughout the course of the day is effective. Paragraphing is sound.
One special moment I have experienced was getting my first pet. I remember it vividly. We were looking for a dog since we had just moved to the country. I was in Kindergarten. One morning when I was eating breakfast I was listening to the radio. On the radio it said that there was a yellow lab for sale. The owners were getting older and didn't have time to play with her anymore. My mom and dad were listening too. They both were thinking it was a good idea because it said the dog was very friendly. I went to school that day and when my mom picked my sister and I up she said that dad had gotten a dog and her name was Molly. Then we pulled into the driveway, I couldn't hardly wait. I opened the door and got out of the car. There stood a really big, yellow dog. She kind of scared me at first. She was really big. I ran up to her and almost started petting her, but my dad said not to go so fast. Then he explained to me how she didn't know me yet, so I should be gentle with her, in case she would bite or something. I pet her softly and she was jumping all around. She was just as excited to
be there as I was. Then my twin sister started playing with her. Just then Molly jumped on her and knocked her over. My sister started crying and didn’t want to pet her anymore, but I still did. I was happy. This was my first pet. I stroked Molly’s fur a whole bunch. She was jumping and barking. I couldn’t wait to see what would happen next! Even now that I have two dogs, three cats, and two calves, Molly is still my favorite. After you get to know Molly you realize she is not the kind of dog to bite, jump, or even bark. She was just too excited that day. She is just a really big, happy, gentle, yellow lab. My whole family, five people, all think she is the greatest. Even my brother who is now four years old will agree “his dog” Molly is the best, most wonderful dog you could have. This is the story of the time I got the most incredible dog ever. Molly was the first pet I ever had, but she will always be my favorite.

Organization: 4

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is effective in this story about getting a first pet dog. While the pacing is less well-controlled toward the end of the story, transitions effectively show how the ideas connect. Paragraphing is sound, even though it has not been formatted correctly.
Have you ever raced a turtle in a turtle race? I have. It was a nice warm summer day and I was at the Loup County Fair having fun with my friends. We were riding our bikes.

After a while I heard a loud booming like, thunder coming from main street that said, "Turtle racers need to check in their turtles." A few minutes later I got my turtle and went to check it in. After I checked my turtle in a person put a number on the shell which was forty-six.

A few minutes later the turtles were ready to race. Some people came, turtles in a box with my turtle.

A few minutes later a person asked, "Are you ready?"

"Ready," the crowd and I answered.

Seconds later the person lifted the box and the turtles raced to be first across the line. "Chip, chlop, chip, chlop," the turtle's feet went as the turtles went as fast as they could go.

A few seconds later two turtles were about to cross the line and one of the turtles
was mine! Go! Go! I shouted.

Seconds later, my turtle crossed the line first! I had won the turtle race.
I felt cheerful that I had won the turtle race.

By C.——

Organization: 3

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is functional in this story about a turtle race. Pacing is generally controlled and paragraphing is generally successful. The use of repetitive transitional phrases is not effective, but they do connect the ideas together adequately. A somewhat weak ending also limits the effectiveness of the organizational structure.
"That will be seven dollars, please."
Said the woman by the cash register in the
Zoo handing out bird food on a stick.

"Wow, seven dollars for seven sticks of bird
food." I said surprised. We were just entering
this humungous bird cage where you could
feed the birds. My cousins Jr. and I didn't want to go because they
were scared of the birds, but my uncle J. and my aunt P. forced them to. We
slowly walked in and slowly held our hands
up and slowly walked around. That's when
my cousins Jr. and I screamed because
a bird had just landed on their sticks.
Moments after, my aunt and uncle
had just caught one to. Seconds later,
I had just ran into a
bird. That's when I felt useless and
unworthy. That's when I said

"I want to go home but the my
aunt asked me"
Why do you want to go home? I replied.

"Because everyone has caught a bird but me," that's when my aunt said "G--" as she was pointing to my stick. I quickly looked at my stick it was... a bird one of the pretty white ones that are impossible to get. That's when I knew that all that waiting really paid off and I will never forget the day I caught a white beautiful bird. And the memories I made with my family.

Organization: 3

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is present in this story about a trip to the zoo to feed the birds. A few functional transitional phrases connect the ideas together and help move the story along adequately. Pacing is generally controlled but somewhat irregular paragraphing affects the organizational flow of the storyline.

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My Baby Sister Sophia

I remember when my baby sister was born, and I had to stay at my grandma's house.

When my baby sister Sophia was about to be born, we rushed to the hospital. My grandma came too.

We waited in a room. It was a long time before everything happened.

Then my grandma, my brother, and I we should go for a little bit.

We went to the store and get some things. Then my dad called and said the baby was here, so we rushed to the hospital.

When we got there, Sophia was wrapped in a blanket. We stayed for a bit.

When we left, we had to stay at my grandmas house.

When my mom was out of the hospital, she came to get us, and we got to see Sophia again.

Organization: 2

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is limited in this story about the birth of a baby sister. Pacing is somewhat inconsistent and there are many gaps or missing details in the development of the story. Transitions are repetitious and the events of the day are not well connected. Paragraphing is irregular and often limited to one or two sentences.
Have you ever had a special moment?

I have when I went to the zoo.

First, I woke up from my sleep. My bed was messy so I fix it. Then I took a bath. I was singing while I was taking a bath. Then I was done taking a bath. Then I changed. Then my mom told me we were going to the zoo. I was happy. My mom said to go in the car. So I did.

Next, I got to the zoo. We went running to the lines. My brother got scared so we went to the monkeys. There was so many kinds of monkeys. I saw red monkeys. All kinds of monkeys everywhere. Then my mom said we have to go home. Because she goes to work tomorrow. Finally, we went home. I was sad we had to go home. The zoo was fun and funny at the same time. I felt upset my mom had to go to work. I wish I own a zoo. I also wish I lived in a zoo.

Organization: 2

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is limited in this story about a trip to the zoo. Pacing is somewhat inconsistent as the writer focuses less on the central idea of being at the zoo, and more on getting ready to go. While some transitions are evident, they are weak and repetitious, and do not adequately connect the events of the day together. An attempt at paragraphing is somewhat successful. A weak ending that seems to be the start of a new idea is evident.
My favorite community event is Earth Day. Because you pick up trash, you can plant plants. You can do a whole bunch of stuff on Earth Day. But do you even know what Earth Day is about? It is about saving earth and life on earth. For instance, you can do the three R’s: Reuse by not accepting plastic bags but cloth bags, or accepting plastic bags but reusing them. My community is clean and pretty. Why? Because my community picks up trash. My community has stray cats and dogs and more. What do we do? We catch the strays and find them a home. Where they will be safe and sound. If you want a clean community with no hurt stray animals, I suggest you do as we do and take Earth Day seriously. If you do, your community will be clean and healthier.

Organization: 1

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is lacking in this response about an Earth Day event. Transitions are missing as ideas are presented in a somewhat random order. Pacing is awkward as the writer has failed to write a personal story and the special moment is unclear. Paragraphing is ineffective.
One day me and my family went to the zoo and we saw lions, tigers, bears and other cool thing like ringoes. Kids, alligators when we was done looking at animals we feel one then the kamile started chase us because he is hungry. I realize to everybody in truck, we finly got away from the kamile then we went home to eat and play outside.

Organization: 1

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is lacking in this somewhat brief response about a trip to the zoo. Pacing is awkward and the lack of transitions fails to connect the events of the day together. Paragraphing is missing.
Voice / Word Choice
I picked up my pink Speedo backpack and swung it over my back and put my arms through the black straps.

I was leaving swim practice for the night and was as worn out as an old rag. My mom trailed behind me and I slowed down to ask her "Remember before we left the house, you said if I did a good job we would do something?"

"Yes, I remember. But I said maybe."

"Yes mom." I said as I thought to myself "I guess I'll just have to wait."

I pushed the heavy door and stepped out into the cold night. I walked down the ramp and onto the sidewalk. I could hear the buzzing of the telephone wire up above. I walked towards my mom's car and opened the car door. I set my bag down in the seat next to me. I stripped myself in as my mom got in the driver's seat. She clicked, started the car and drove down..."
and out the parking lot.

We passed Target and some houses
and next thing I knew we were in the
parking lot of Dairy Queen. I unclicked
my seat belt opened the door and
stepped out. I shut the door and
ran up to the white glass doors with
big red spoons on them. I stepped
in and got ready to order.

"Thank you so much mom!"

"I have a buy one get one
Free coupon on my PinPoint app."
She said to the lady behind the
counter.

"I'll have a mint oreo blizzard
please!" I said joyfully.

"Make that two please."

"They will be right out!"

"Thanks!" my mom said as
she stepped back for the next person
to order.

In a few minutes she handed
us our mint oreo blizzards and
told us to have a good night.
"Thanks mom!" I said as I put the spoon in my mouth.

Even though it was a small celebration, I think to myself that one day I will celebrate even more when I do good on my next swim meet. I was really happy when we walked inside. I felt like I did the best I could that night.

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.

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"Ah, squeal, ah, squeal!" Katherine and John hop in the car," my father boomed. My brother and I dashed into the car, buckled our seat belts, and asked, "Psst, John do you know where we are going?" "I don't know," he replied. We drove for ten minutes then we arrived at Pet Smart, a pet shop. "Dad are you just mocking us again since we are allergic to anything that sheds?" I asked depressingly. My dad didn't answer, it was strange. We walked in and we strolled to the "Small Pets Isle." My dad announced, "You each can go pick a pet from the "Small Pets Isle." Finally, I thought I was as joyful as a girl on Christmas morning with presents under the tree. A woman was there to help us. We looked at every animal. It was down to a hamster or guinea pig. The woman asked, "Do you want to hold a guinea pig to help make a decision?" "Yes please," I answered. She explained you cannot hold a hamster
but with guinea pigs you can hold and cuddle with them.

Then all of a sudden, my mind was made. When I was holding the oldest guinea pig, I chose her and she was my decision. "She is my favorite," the women informed me. My brother chose a hamster. We checked out and on the way home we were considering names for each one. I shouted, "I got it! I'll name her Christine since my middle name is Christine just add a!" We all agreed on the name and we also named the hamster Speedy.

To this day, I will always remember that moment and Christine since Christine just died on March 15, 2014 but will always remain in my heart.
Easter's Enjoyable
Eggs!

I raced to my backyard as soon as the celebration hunt began. P—my six-year-old sister, trailed behind me. And that is where I spotted a pale blue, placed on a table.

I curved around the tree to try to get to the Easter egg before P—. Unfortunately, P— was short enough to fit between the pine tree and the wall, so she had a ten-foot advantage. Right before I grabbed the egg, P— accidently bumped me into the metal table. I tried to grab the egg, but I realized P— already had it. P— started to go after a large red egg, but I wasn't going to let her get that one.

Luckily, she didn't have an advantage this time. But I did. I got the egg before she got close to the egg. I raced around, collecting eggs until I bumped into C—, my nine-year-old sister. Mom, who was behind her, said an important egg was nearby C—, and I all looked for it for around a minute. And that was where I saw it, shining in the sunlight.
The bronze egg was positioned so it was only visible at a few angles. I grabbed it and put it in my basket. The girls continued to search the back, while I searched the front. After a few minutes, we all met back up in the front to count our eggs. Obviously I found the most. It turned out the large red egg was the biggest egg, whereas I had the only bronze egg. P---- had the "golden" goose egg (though C ______ informs me, Mom told her where it was), which was actually yellow. We sat down to eat the chocolate from the eggs. And that is when I noticed my pinky finger was bleeding from when I hit the table earlier.

I will never forget the excitement of this Easter egg hunt. I felt nervous, for when I ran into C ______ for the first time, she had more eggs than I, and I always got the most eggs. Next time I'll try to get around half the total amount of eggs. This was a special celebration, and a fun one as well.

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. Language is generally precise and somewhat varied, but it is not particularly engaging throughout the response and the word choices are occasionally repetitive.
"Hurry up mom!" I said in my exited voice.

My mom, sister and I were going to Papillion days.

When we got inside the huge park we saw lots of people crowding the place.

"Mom can we go on Super Shot?" I asked.

Sister and I were waiting for an answer.

"Sure" my mom said not really sure.

We ran up to the tall ride and stood in front of it.

"Are you sure you want to go on this ride?" asked Sister.

"Yes!" I told her.
So and I walked up slowly to the ride. We saw a bunch of teens over in line waiting to go on this terrifying ride.

Finally we got on to the seat and got strapped in. A man pressed a button and the ride started rising. I had butterflies in my stomach but I knew I couldn't get down now. We were so high in the sky I could see all of the four.

Click, the ride had stopped in the air. We waited and waited till... "Ahhhhhhhh" my sister and some other girls scream as Super Shot came down.

"That was fun and scary at the same time" I told my mom.

Later that day we did Super Shot 5 more times in total we went down Super shot 6 times. This made me realize take a chance and go for it.

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. A few stronger word choices and an attempt at dialogue are evident and help in creating a sense of the writer, but the writer fails to maintain this voice and stronger word choices throughout the response.
On the 4th of July

On the fourth of July, my family and I had a celebration for my two brothers' graduation. So we decided to have a BBQ. So my two sisters and some friends and I cooked lots of food for two days.

So then, we went to an empty park and we decided to have it there. So me, my sister and a friend had to put the food on the table. After we had to go pick up some people. So after everyone was here we had a delectable feast. But after eating so many people started coming then we realized my brother invited them.

After, it was getting dark. I asked my brother if we can start lighting the fireworks and he said sure. I was the first one to light one. It was so awesome. And there was other fireworks that was very weird because it would sound like Wreeeeek!

Finally, it was time to light the grand finale. The biggest firework, I got to light it. But I was so scared so my sister did it was amazing and it was a special moment for my family and I.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

In this response the wording is occasionally expressive, and conveys a limited sense of the writer. A weaker voice is sometimes inappropriate for the audience. The language is only occasionally specific and precise. A number of similar sentences with the same beginnings and repetitive word choices are also somewhat distracting to the reader.
Last winter on Christmas Eve I went to my cousins house. We made a huge snowman. We kept it in the shade so it won't melt. All of us played in the park for 10 minutes. Then we moved the snowman to eat dinner.

I first came outside than they did. We all said "look the snowman." Hey, guys come here it's melting." I shouted. We ran to it the shade was gone. So we all pushed the snowman.

"Splat"! But it just fell down in our faces and my face got numb in five seconds. Get up in three, two, one up no back down. We all laughed in pain that was the best Christmas Eve ever!

I learned not to try and push a snowman to the shade. But only if you had fun having a snowman falling on you.

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 is not particularly engaging.
A special event I remember is when our class had a Halloween party. First we past out snacks and went to go outside. Then we had a dance party. Later we made cupcakes for the class. After that we made masks. I made a batman one. Later that day we watched a movie it was called Alvin and the Chipmunks and the Wolfman. Last we went home and had a good time at the party.
Easter

"Easter I owns. Loved Easter. But this year was different. I was so sick."

"My arms and legs were icy."

"My mom was sad too."

"I took off the grass and it stopped itching so now I stay away from the grass."

Voice/Word Choice: 1

In this response about Easter, 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.

Nebraska Statewide Pilot Prompt 2013
Sentence Fluency / Conventions
The Bee of Spelling

Today was the day. After weeks of practicing, I was going to the spelling bee. Driving to the Tach building felt like I was riding to my doom. Cr- and me (along with 5 others) were going to the spelling bee to represent S. Elementary. When I opened the door to the Tach building, my stomach did a

As if I wasn't freaked out enough, the Tach building had dark, and ominous hallways (great way to help kids feel confident). At the entrance, were cookies for kids (I have a wheat allergy, so I can't have cookies). After feeling hungry again, we went into the auditorium for the exam.

My team members looked as freaked out as I did. The staff gave me a piece of paper and a pencil. We began the written round. They gave me a word like "xojninowzyabijx." I had to guess.

We took a break for the cookies. When we came back, the judges began to pick people for the oral round. I made it! In the oral round, people were missing simple words like "carrots." I got "photosynthesis." I got it right! When it came back to me, I got "grandmother".

Soon only 5 people remained. And me, along with 3 other people remained. One of them messed up. "Were going to the"
"I yelled triumphantly. The only obstacle now was the regionals."

The spelling bee was probably one of the most tense events in my life. I never expected to get to the regionals. Of course, I did lose in the regionals. The spelling bee is something I'm proud of. I was prepared.

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Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 4

Sentences vary in length and structure throughout this story about a spelling bee competition. Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are consistently correct, and fragments are intended for stylistic effect.

Nebraska Statewide Pilot Prompt 2013
When I first got my glasses it was a very special time in my life. One day I went to O'Neill for an eye appointment. I didn't plan on getting glasses, but after the appointment was over the doctors said I needed them. The doctors dilated my pupils so everything was yellow and blurry. It was very hard to pick out glasses because I couldn't see. Some people that worked there helped me pick them out. I soon saw something very shiny on a pair of glasses. I pointed to that pair of glasses and they helped me put them on. They said they looked good on me. So after a long time of trying on glasses I decided that pair was the one to get. So I got them. The receptionist said that my glasses wouldn't come for five to ten days. I was so excited. When I got back to my classroom a lot of my classmates were asking "did you get glasses?" I said I did, but they wouldn't come for a while. When I got them I had to go back to O'Neill. Just to try them on, adjust them, and make sure they fit right. I was so
happy when I got them, I have got new glasses since then and they have been easier to pick out. I am very happy with my glasses.
"That was amazing!" Have you ever been to an 8 key party? Well I have, let me tell you about it. At the end of the month if we got all our assignments turned in we go to a party for all our hard work. Only if you are green.

"OMG I can't wait!" It was 2:30 and math just ended. And I was bouncing off the walls. I thought I was going to burst with excitement. Then I saw other people heading down so I went too. I went down that stair case faster than a hummingbird. I could feel the butterflies in my belly ready to get out.

I ran to the cafeteria that was where the party was at. I got my things and went to a table, we were making May Day pipe cleaner flower pots. My flowers were pink and yellow with many green stems and jelly bean soil. I put it in a small orange flower pot. It was so cute. I was ready for the next activity in the gymnasium. I wonder what it could be. I was anxious to see. I peeked in and we were playing baseball. I love baseball. Next we got ready. My friend M swung the ball.
and went past my head. I ran to catch it, but it was too late. "Home run," everyone screamed. I couldn't bat because we didn't have enough time for everyone but it was okay.

Finally, all the excitement ended. It was 3:30 and we got our flower pots and walked up the stairs in a very tired way. Every one was sad that the party ended but there is another one our last one in May. We got packed up and went home. I told M, "I hope I go to the next one." Hopefully, in the future the party will be longer. I wish the party would last forever and still be very very fun and exciting.

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Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this story about a school party. Phrasing generally sounds natural. Some errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are evident, but the errors do not distract the reader.
What is white and cold? Snow!

This is a time when my family and I had an exciting event.

"Dad," I asked. "What?" He said as if he was playing video games. "Can Benne, Jimmy, you and me make an igloo out of snow."

"Yeah, sure why not." "Boys," I shouted. "We're going to make an igloo!" The boys raced up the stairs.

We all put our winter gear on. First my dad had to go get the shovels from downstairs. It felt like a million years although it was only five minutes.

We made it outside! I was so excited. "Dad," I shouted, "I need a shovel!" "Ok," he replied. First we had to get a lot of snow and shape it. Then we had to put it down. I even got my own room! Finally we were all done. We had icecicles to celebrate! After that we
We were so tired we had to lay down. "Dad," I said. "Can we do this next year?" "Well, I thought we could have a snowball fight." "Okay, in that case, I can't wait till next year!"

The very next day, it was all gone. I felt sad and if I was the only one who cared about it, but my dad and my brother cared too.

I will never forget that special event and the igloo that we made with teamwork!

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this story about making an igloo. Phrasing generally sounds natural. Grammar, usage, and punctuation are usually correct and the spelling errors do not distract the reader.
"This is going to be the best birthday party ever!" I told my mom in a high-pitched voice, dancing to the music. I was very excited, because I was going to turn 10 and have my friends over. My mom was coming to my birthday. I also planned some activities like a free violin lesson or ride my bike, and lots more. My friends came and helped me prepare the table. My mom told me. So I went and helped her put the plates, forks, food, spoons, knives, and napkins. I thought my friends would enjoy the party. I felt they also liked the free violin lesson I planned. Then they finally came to the party, they were very surprised to
see all of this, when I stepped into the house I quickly led them to my room (and I also took my violin) for a free violin lesson. I had to go youngest to oldest so Mr. was first. I showed her how to hold the violin in her hands, when she did the open D it was wonderful. We even put on camera next it was Mr. then I they did say on the violin too. I thought they did wonderful on their first note. I felt a little worried because might drop it. After the lesson it was time to eat. My mom made hamburgers and French fries with ketchup. They said "it was yummy." (But at least I didn't get anything on my skirt). While my mom was talking with there mom and grandma. I led them to my room again but they said they wanted cause I told them "no." (But I also wanted cause) but the
the cake had buttercream frosting and white cake and it had my name on it. I thought about the cake too. I felt so rude to give cake.

Next, I asked my if we could have cake but she said "you just ate." But made the puppy face and she gave us cake. They sang "Happy Birthday," then we devoured the cake in one piece. I thought the cake was delicious. I felt it was a good day.

Finally, they had to go home so we went outside and took a picture to remember this day. Then we led them to their car and they drove home.

I will never forget what great day we had my birthday. I will hope that I go to their house and do their birthday. I hope in future I keep that in my heart!
How I made a friend

I was nervous. It was a hot summer day.
I was in the sand box. I was making a
big hole. She said, "Can I help?" I said, "Yes." We
fixed up the hole. We became friends. We had
fun that hot summer day. That's how I made
a friend.

How did you make a friend?

She was beautiful. Her hair is brown. She is a
great friend. She helps me. She has white teeth.
She was shorter than me.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

Sentences seldom vary in length or structure in this brief story about making a friend. Phrasing occasionally sounds unnatural and simple sentences with some fragments sometimes confuse the reader. Errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling, may distract the reader.

Nebraska Statewide Pilot Prompt  2013
4th of July

Have you ever lit a firework? I have and it almost nite my tays.

It all started in the car when me and my brother playing on are kind of fyers we when playing Graal an it era we that it was fun.

Next when we got there we when swimming my bro said "that was fun" when it was don be when in Side and eat diner.
Finally, it was time to light the works!! My dad said "OK, you can do a firework." I was happy.

As you can see,

I like fireworks.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

Sentences seldom vary in length or structure in this story about Independence Day. Phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural. Fragments and run-ons confuse the reader. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors throughout the response distract the reader.
I went to Disney World for my birthday and I'm going again on my birthday. I'm going to take 2 friends with me. My birthday is on July 14th. It's fun in Disney World because I took a friend with me.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

In this very brief response, sentences seldom vary in length or structure. Phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural. Fragments and run-ons confuse the reader. Grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors distract the reader.