ENE533

NeSA-Writing

2016

GRADE 4

Writing

Scoring Guide
Writing Topic

Think about a time you will never forget.

It could be a time you felt excited, surprised, nervous, or another emotion.

Write a story about that time. Include a beginning, middle, and end. Use specific details so anyone who reads your story will understand exactly what happened and how you felt.
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
"I hope, I am tall enough for the blue slide."
I said as we walked into the building. While mom paid I got measured. "Yes!" I said when she put the blue bracelet on. I slipped on my flip flops and started to walk outside. I was so happy.

Mom directed me for a place to lay down our stuff. I was worried there were no chairs. "There are no chairs. We can sit in the grass." Mom said. "Ok." I said gloomy.

We walked over to a big patch of fresh green grass. We laid down our belongings and got on sunscreen. I flicked off my flip flops and headed to the slides. I saw the wet footprints of those who ventured the slide before me.

One by one I got closer to the top floor. Every step closer I got made me more nervous I got. Finally, I made it up all the stairs I thought. I counted the people, 8 people lined up on the yellow.
and 3 in line for blue.

After 5 minutes or so it was finally my turn. I took 2 deep breaths, I grabbed the bar and held on tight till my knuckles turned white.

Then the life guard blurted, "Ok you can go now. Cross your arms and legs." I did as fast as I could. Soon I went down to the blue insides of the slide. At first I went pretty slow. I just wanted to laugh about how I was so nervous. It isn't so bad I thought.

I started to turn. And out of no where I saw a glimpse of light. I smiled and then plugged my nose. I knew that when I finished that I would have finished the blue slide.

I took one last breath. I felt a splash of cold water on my face. I was so happy! I finally did the blue slide.

I will never forget that experience at
In this response about riding the water slide at Splash Station, the writer creates a clear understanding of the events of the story, and the content is well-focused on the time they went down the “blue slide”. The writer has provided numerous relevant details about the events leading up to and including their first time down the slide, and has fully integrated their emotions and feelings about how they felt and what happened that day. A well-developed storyline is logical and easy to follow throughout.
Today is the day. I'm in the Bahamas. I'm so excited. I'm going on a ride full of... Sharks! It's so awesome. You go through a tube and on the outside there's a bunch of sharks. I'm in line waiting right now. It feels like it's been decades.

Finally, I'm up next. I'm so pumped. I just want to ride it already. I'm so happy. I'm getting on the tube. Right now, I'm being put in 3 & 1.

AHAHAAH! This is awesome. I'm zooming down the slide real fast. It feels like I'm on a cheetah going after its prey. I'm getting close to the tube full of sharks. The lights getting brighter and brighter. It's like I'm going into the lights of Heaven.

I've reached the tube full of sharks. It's like I'm actually swimming with a shark without a tube protecting me. I'm by a great white. I'm astonished. I've never seen a Great-White in real life. Also, I've never noticed how big they are either. Actually, I'm kind of scared now.

Aw man, I just splashed at the end of the ride.
I'm so upset only if it lasted longer it makes me mad but also sad at the same time because I'm mad that it wasn't longer than I thought it was going to be and I'm sad because the ride ended so fast like it was going down in a lammergeire the whole time. I guess it's not always the way you imagine it.

That was amazing I've never been on a water slide like that before. I hope I can ride on it again some day again that would be amazing. Also now I know not to always expect more than there actually is. Plus even though it wasn't long I still had a blast going down it.

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 a water slide ride that goes through a shark pool in the Bahamas. The writer has provided numerous relevant details about the ride and has fully incorporated the various emotions felt throughout the experience. The storyline is well-developed, logical, and easy to follow throughout.
My New Horse, Betsy

Vrooooom! We're off to Nebraska to go get my new horse, Betsy.

One steamy day in May, my mom and dad came to pick me up from school. Once we hit the road, we were off on a four hour road trip. When my mom, the best mom in the whole world, said that it would be four more hours, I didn't look on her GPS. Soon after my dad, the greatest, sighed, I knew I needed to start passing time.

After about three hours we went to have lunch at Applebee's. Then we back on the busy paved road. Once we arrived we went to Betsy's pen to do some groundwork. (Walking, trotting, pivoting, backing, and stopping.)

Soon after we were saddling and biddling Betsy, the bay mare.
with big, brown, loving eyes.

Once we were in the arena and I was up in the saddle. I took it easy and started walking around the arena. Once I was confident and not frightened I started trotting. It was just like a walk with a little jump.

Once my mom said it was time to leave I hopped down and started walking toward our trailer. Before we left the family said their good-byes to her. Then we were off again. Then I looked back and saw the family at the end of their lane, waving with big tears in their eyes.

I'll never forget the exciting day when I brought Boston Easter Gal, Betsy, my new horse, home.
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 went to collect and bring home their new horse Betsy. While the storyline is generally logical and easy to follow, much of the content is focused on the events leading up to meeting and riding the horse for the first time, such that the central idea of the story is less well-developed. While the writer has provided some adequate related details, the important details about the horse and the emotions that getting a new horse would produce are missing. More numerous relevant details about Betsy and what happened and how they felt when they met, would improve the Ideas/Content score.
I remember when my mom and my sister were in the bathroom and I was in the kitchen. I started to talk with them. We started playing around and doing stuff. We put water on our hands and still chatting with each other and laughing until he got the cat.

In the middle of the afternoon, he was in the tub with our cat Zera. He was holding her like a baby and petting her and playing with her. He was tempting to put her in the tub but he didn't because it would hurt me and it and it did. He was still tempting to put still didn't we were talking when he dragged the cat into the tub. At fading light when he dragged her she jumped off the wall to hit me in the side of my forehead and scratched me good. When my mom heard me crying she automatically came upstairs to where I was sitting in the tub. She quickly got the bandages and put
Paper for Statewide Writing Pilot Prompt. Please Use Pencil. You may use only the pages in the booklet.

Then enter my cat and scars the cat gave me. I felt very hurt, I leared not to let my brother in the bathroom with the cat.

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's face was scratched by the family cat after being tossed into the tub with the writer. While some related details about the incident are included, they are not numerous and do not provide enough information to fully develop the story. The reader generally understands what happened and generally knows how the writer felt about the situation, but some useful information that would help develop the narrative is missing. The storyline is generally logical and easy to follow, but more development of the content and ideas would be required for a higher score.

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On a hot summer day we woke up and had breakfast. Then we packed our bags. We packed: water, blankets, pillows, comforter, toys, five air mattresses, and clothes.

When we were done packing, we loaded up the truck. It was a long, bumpy ride.

When we got to our cousins' house, we unloaded the truck. We took every thing inside.

We got souvenirs, I got a toy horse, Matt got a dinosaur, and Tim got an alligator.

As I shivered under my covers I thought, I hope we get to go again.

Ideas/Content: 2

In this response the writer creates a limited understanding of the events of a trip. The content is not particularly focused on a central idea, and the development of a story is limited. The storyline is therefore somewhat vague as the writer simply lists a few of the things that happened during the day without developing these ideas adequately. Important details are missing that are needed to link the storyline together and to help the reader understand exactly what happened that was unforgettable and how the writer felt about this time.
Have you ever been to the skate board park?
Well I have. It's the best skate board park in the world.
It has ramps and hills. I brought my skate board but
there can be bikes and roller skates but I brought my
skate board.

When I got to the skate board park the first thing I
did was get my skate board. When I got to the ramps
and hills I saw something new it was an skate board band.
I went in it and went down and I went up a ramp I started
to go in the sky and I landed perfectly. Then a little bit later I
went to my car and got my paper drink almost the
whole Battles. Although it was really hot out side.

Although I had to leave but I went to gammies and bought
the game Halo 5. It was for a trial game. I went home and started
to play Halo 5. Then I didn't really want to play it so then I went to
walmart and bought the game Left 4 Dead 2 it's a zombie game.
so I ran home put the disc in and started to play. The choice
of the characters were Nicky, Ellis, Coach and Rachel. There
were special zombies.
The zombie like the tank is the strongest. The witch has the sharpest nails. The hunter is the 2nd strongest. The jockey jumps on your head and tries to take it off. Also, the smokes drops his tank really tight to choke. Then I had to go to sleep. I wished that zombies never come alive and then I would have another fun day like that.

Ideas/Content: 2

In this response the writer creates a limited understanding of the events of a story about firstly, going to a skateboard park, and then playing video games and going to Walmart. The central idea about a time you will never forget is unclear as a severe digression from one topic to the next is evident. Unrelated and occasionally random details create a somewhat vague and unfocused storyline.
I will never forget that I was a high schooler that could sing very good. This is a song I wrote someday. I will live in a big city with your ever going to be the same? And this one, I can't believe you just took it? I am. I have so many seasons, seasons and seasons of the seasons. So go watch Glee!

From: from

If what to be a Glee someday maybe you can too.

Ideas/Content: 1

In this response, the writer creates little understanding of the events of the story about watching the television show Glee. Supporting details are lacking as the writer seems to have simply quoted the lyrics from two songs and listed the number of seasons the show has been broadcast. The storyline is unclear, random, repetitive, and disconnected.
Chuck E Cheese
We got mom's money and we go to Chuck E Cheese. Then I see arcade games. Then we go to service and we get some tokens. I play pirate treasure quest.

Ideas/Content: 1

In this brief response, the writer creates little understanding of the events of the story. While the story is about going to Chuck E Cheese, supporting details are lacking and the development of ideas is minimal. The content is simply a brief, undeveloped list of a few things about the visit. The writer has failed to develop the content and has not connected any of the ideas and details together to produce a storyline.
Organization
Ba boom, ba boom, ba boom! That is my heart beating louder than a drum. A 5-year-old's worst nightmare. Going on a rollercoaster 150 feet tall. I knew I had to put my brave face on and act excited to my family. I just hope they don't hear my heart. I was SO nervous.

About 5 years ago we went to Disney World... (you know, the place where dreams come true.) Well, this ride is different. I sat outside just watching the people scream in horror as they went down a waterfall (90° slope.) It was a water ride with dragons that have glowing eyes. I hate tummy tickles. As I was regretting acting excited it was time to line up.

My parents could start to see fear in my eyes and to make it better the line up the
stairs was as long as the drop on the rollercoaster. Finally, we got in the log. As we climbed in, it started to shake in the rapids of the water. We started to move into a hole in the mountain where there was a fake rabbit and fox singing. I thought to myself well this isn’t bad at all but as we got closer we could see the light of day and a dead fake rabbit lying on the ground plus a dragon. The speaker started to play an evil laugh. Then we went 3 feet up and went blazing 150 feet down! Ahhh! I looked up to see the perfect view of the whole park. Then, a splash that knocked us all back into our seats. After that, at the bottom of the drop we saw the fake rabbit alive.

I think we did it about
five times after that. So finally I put my head up in the picture they took.

The fake rabbit sang "Zippity do da zippity day, a wonderful world, a wonderful day. As for the scared little girl said "again, again, again," I guess tears can be broken.

Organization: 4

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is effective in this story about a trip to Disney World and experiencing a scary ride for the first time. Pacing is very well-controlled throughout the response as the writer skillfully takes us through the emotional roller-coaster ride from first waiting in line to a joyful and exciting conclusion. An engaging beginning grabs the reader's attention and effective transitions successfully connect the main ideas together. A strong conclusion that successfully summarizes the writer's feelings about overcoming the fear and wanting to ride again is effective. Paragraphing is sound.
Sometimes you feel angry or sad but, this is a different story. It is the total opposite. This story is when I lost my coolest and best friend, Cooper, my dog.

I was new in town. Only four years of age, I was playing in my backyard when I overheard my mom say we were getting a dog. I went wild. My mom said I could pick out the name. Well before we knew it we had a cute little Cooper Colored puppy. That's his name Cooper! A few months later Cooper grew into a big dog. One night my little brother Nolan, who was two years of age, couldn't stop sneezing and coughing. We took him to the doctor and that's when we found out Nolan was allergic to Cooper.

We tried our hardest to keep Cooper and Nolan apart. But the two could not be separated. Finally, my mom said, "Cooper has to go." So we sent Cooper to my great aunt Deb. Me and my brothers tried not to cry during say. So we cried all night. One late afternoon aunt Deb called us and said Cooper got run over so he was at the vet. We visited Cooper at the vet, and when the doctor said "Cooper had to leave the world it broke my heart." So we spent 3 hours hugging and saying goodbye to Cooper. When it was time to leave I whispered in Coopers ear and said...
you will always be my friend I hope you know you can't be replaced.

The first week was tough without copper. The next week we started healing from the heartache and loneliness. My mom told me to forget, I replies "I will never forget. Before the funeral my family looked at pictures laughing at funny memories. When we left I grabbed some flowers from the backyard.

When you lose a friend never forget them and never forget the fun times you had with them along with the hilarious memories and character traits the had. But most important never ever forget your very strong friendship.

Organization: 4

The effective use of a beginning, middle, and end helps guide this story about losing a pet dog, Copper. The well-controlled pacing moves the story from getting the dog, to discovering that brother Nolan is allergic, to finally saying goodbye. The pacing is well controlled, and effective transitions take us through the young writer's journey with a beloved pet. Paragraphing is sound.
I am going to tell you about a time I will never forget. We went to Omaha, went bowling, played arcade games, and laser tag.

We're here, my dad said as we arrived in Omaha. Let's get to Aunt Ashley's house and figure out what we want to do. My sister and I said "OK" and we drove half an hour. Then we pulled into her driveway. We grabbed our bags out of the car and walked inside. Then my dad asked my aunt what we could do and she said bowling. We all agreed bowling would be fun, so we got in the car and drove to the bowling alley.

When we walked into the bowling place, it turned out they had an arcade room and laser tag! We went bowling first. It was awesome, I got three strikes! There was music playing and the disco balls were hanging and flashing too.

After two games of bowling, we went to the arcade. I played all the games. I didn't want to play the arcade anymore cause I played all the games, so I got my family to play Laser Tag! After the instructor told us how to play, we went into the dark room to hide. Then things started glowing and we shot at each other and shot my whole
family out it was awesome I will never forget this
That will be a time I will never forget
Especially the laser tag.

Organization: 3

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is functional in this story about going to a bowling alley in Omaha. Pacing is generally controlled although having introduced the main ideas of the story in an introduction, the writer then spends time going to an aunt's house to decide where to go and what to do. Having finally arrived at the bowling place, the story then rapidly goes through the three activities and comes to an abrupt conclusion. Transitional phrases connect the ideas together adequately. Paragraphing is generally successful.
The Day I will Never Forget
Yay! Today I'm getting a dog.

It was a bright and sunny morning and I was awake watching T.V. Then about lunch time, my dad called and said, "We're getting a dog." I was as happy as a person who got a big present for Christmas. Then my dad came home a little later. My brother and I got into my dad's old brown car and drove to the guys' house.

Next it took us about 20 minutes to get there. Then we got out of the car happily and to go speak to the guys. We could here puppies barking real loud. Then we went into the gray fenced cage, and picked out a black puppy. "Woof," went the dog. It was really funny.

We paid the guy and put the
The black puppy in our cage in the backseat. Next, we drove home. When we got home we gave our puppy some food and water. Next, my brother and I went and played with him and played with it in our shady backyard. The first thing we did with it was play two-hand touch football with it.

Next, we did races with him. He was really fast that he beat my brother and me. Then the puppy started getting tired, so we put him in his cage and went to sleep. Next I grabbed my basketball and went outside to shoot some hoops. Then my brother had a baseball game.

The next thing we did was to go to his game. He won, and me and his team were happy. Next, we went and got a bite to

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We ate and went home. We let the puppy out for a little bit to use the bathroom. After that we put him back in his cage and went inside the house. Last everyone went to sleep.

I will never forget that day. I got that dog.

Organization: 3

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is functional in this story about getting a new puppy. Transitions are repetitive and functional, but the pacing is generally controlled as the student takes us chronologically step-by-step through the first day of the puppy's life in their home. Paragraphing is generally successful.
The Stairs

This is what happened to me when I was 4. It was a sunny day.
I wanted to bring some toys to the basement. But instead of bringing some toys in my hands, I had brought a bunch.

So, instead of bringing one by one to the basement, I had decided to bring them all at once.

Next, I walked down one step at a time. On the fifth step, I tripped and fell. Then, all the things in my hands fell and came rumbling down the steps. There was a wood box coming my way! Smash. It hit my head.

Next, my daddy (Chris) heard me screaming and crying. He helped me and carried me to the couch and got an ice pack and a bunch of band-aids.

Then, mom came home and when she saw me, she said, "What happened?" So dad told mom, then we played Wii and I was all better.

Organization: 2

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is limited in this story about falling down the stairs. 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 story are not well connected. A somewhat abrupt ending that does not help the reader understand how the incident resolved itself is evident. Paragraphing is irregular and often limited to one or two sentences.
Have you ever been to a birthday party?
I have. Let me tell you all about it.
It all started with me and my friend. It is hot sunny day. We were at house. I was feeling happy because it is my birthday. Then, my friend come to my birthday. He gave me presents. I got a lot of presents. I was happy like a princess. Finally, we were eating a cake. My friend have to go home. I was feeling sad because my friend have to go home. In conclusion as you can see, this is think about a time you will never forget. Take my advice. I think everybody should go to birthday party.
This is a day I went to a new school and got extremely nervous. This is where it started.

Way back in the year 2001, a boy named I went to a new school called Fire Ridge. That morning I moved to a new house in Pacific Woods. I got up and got ready for school. My mom gave me doughnuts for my classmates. My mom took me to school and it looked the same as Spring Ridge. So, I thought I would have an easy start.

Organization: 1

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is lacking in this response about the first day at a new school. The events of the day have been connected together in a somewhat confusing way that interrupts the flow of the storyline. Pacing is awkward and the lack of an ending does not help the reader understand why the student was extremely nervous at the beginning. Paragraphing is ineffective.
All I want to play with my dad is catch. Sometimes he does not want to play, but sometimes he does. I get happy. I like playing with my dad. He is amazing. I am doing baseball this summer. It will be fun practicing with my dad. It is fun playing with your parents. It is fun having a family and friends. It is fun when your mom and dad watch you. I like when people play games with me. It is fun playing games. It is fun playing games with anybody. I be happy to have a family because you never see them a game.

Organization: 1

The structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is lacking in this response about playing games with a parent. A somewhat repetitive list of ideas has been presented in a random order and the lack of transitions fails to connect the events of the story together. Pacing is awkward, paragraphing is ineffective, and many elements needed for a personal narrative are missing.
Voice / Word Choice
Have you ever felt as queasy as the cheese inside of a mushy grilled cheese sandwich? On the day of March 7th 2015, I had my first Destination Imagination competition, or D.I. for short, and I had that feeling with a pounding heart like a gorilla.

D.I. is a whole program dedicated to creativity, science, and teamwork. My team, the Imagination Masters, did the Creature Feature technical challenge. We built a robot and put a truck full of work into making props, researching, and telling a shocking story about dying trees. As I walked into the building, I felt a surge of creativity brush my hair. My eyes instantly got stuck on the raffle and bright souvenirs they sold, like the bright pink pin that "Creature Feature." I had to get one, so I did. Soon, performance time was arriving, and a nervous hamster started spinning his wheel over and over in my stomach. Luckily, everyone was ready, and our props were safe and sound. So the hamster jumped out and was replaced by a smile brighter than the universe.
When I stepped into the gym, I felt like a professional football player stepping under the grand arch and onto a green field. In my arms, Cyber the robot was waiting anxiously to show off his special skills of picking up magnets with his nose, bowing his head up and down, and making a squeaky sound with his tail. The announcer started speaking, "Team are you ready?" and with a proud heart, we said yes! We rushed and set up everything quickly - split! Everything went on track, except for the nose. My friend and I got our hip-hop grooves on as we did our dance part to a 36-inch rainstick and a loud booming thunder drum. A loud applause arose from the audience as our hands went down in a deep bow. Even though some things didn't work, I still felt pretty proud to be walking among many creative minds in Omaha. We walked out the large brown doors with our heads held high, positive we would win. We all gave each other high-fives and sat down to watch another team.

Soon, it was time for awards. At the Feature first, the announcer spoke, "In 6th grade, Imagination Masterz! We all jumped up and
started being so relieved. We couldn’t keep all the rest of the awards, but we managed to keep a cheerful smile the whole time.

I still remember the anxious eyes waiting and the flood of relief falling over me when we got 9th place! The day after we celebrated with an ice cream cake. Those days I’ll never forget, because it’s one of the best times ever.

Voice/Word Choice: 4

In this response the wording is expressive and engaging, conveying a strong sense of the writer throughout the story about attending a science competition. The voice is well-suited for the purpose and audience, and the language is specific, precise and varied throughout.
I stepped out of the back seat of our opague volkswagen passably family was going to P.F. Changs for lunch. At first I was excited because our on-going (kinda stuck-up) grandparents were coming along (or you could say carpooling).

I walked on in and my eyes grew massive, even though I had been there one million times the guy (that was a statue) still got me. Passing by the statue I trekked into a place that was really way to fancy for what I was wearing (at least my style is better than my sister’s seriously polka dot pants). I walked with dad up to the desk that looked more like a podium.

Then dad picked a booth over a table. The the waiter asked if we wanted a Chinese coloring page. Of course I was in first grade so yes I did get one. The lady led us over to the corner booth. She started asking us what we wanted for a beverage.

While we were waiting we talked. Soon after mom told me to head to the bathroom, so I obeyed and went. I walked out the bathroom and there was a lady that by the back of the head looked exactly like Mrs. Lorence.

So I said, ”Hi Mrs. Lorence.” Then the lady turned around and she wasn’t. Mrs. Lorence (It wasn’t even a girl just a boy with a ponytail). I ran back to the booth that my family was sitting at.

I hope that never ever happens again!! That was the most awkward time in my life.

Voice/Word Choice: 4

In this response about having an awkward lunch at P.F Chang’s, the wording is expressive and engaging, conveying a strong sense of the writer throughout the story. The slightly sarcastic voice is well-suited for the purpose and audience, and the language is specific, precise and varied throughout. The writer’s witty personality helps the narrative, and the reader gets a sense of the embarrassment felt when the writer misidentifies a male customer in the restaurant. A strong vocabulary characterizes this somewhat amusing story.
Have you ever destiny imagination (D.I.) before? Well I have, and I will never forget the day we got first place.

Are task for D.I. was to make a creature that has at least three things and you have to incorporate it into a skit. We made a sea creature that flapped its wings and blinked its eyes to talk, and he stuck his tongue out to eat food. And we made a skit. The skit was about 4 kids that were fishing in boats in the sea and they got lost. Then something bumped the boat and the sea creature came up from the water. We asked him to help us find food and shelter and he took the kids to an island while they were looking around the island a coconut fell on one of the kids head and there was a boy inside of it. We asked the sea creature what it was so and he didn't know. Then one of the kids noticed a hut that had a key hole. So we used the key to open it and inside of the hut was a portal so all the kids went through it. When they were out of the portal they were on the other side of the island and the hut was now just a small wall with a button. So we pressed the
Button and we heard a volcano erupting. We
found the volcano and it was erupting popcorn.
Everyone was starving especially the sea
creature so we all ate the popcorn. Then it
was time for us to go so to help us
find our way back the sea creature gave
us a map. And we got home safely.

After practice and practice it was
time to go to the competition which was
in Blair at a high school. There were a
bunch of different teams going against us. When
it was our turn to perform we gathered
all our props and we did our shit. After
that they scored us. When it came to the
award ceremony every team sat up on the
aunt floor. First they announced 3rd then 2nd,
then it was time for first. And they
announced OUR TEAM! Everyone went crazy!
I was so excited! I could not believe we
got first place! I was so happy.

I learned if you work hard you can
accomplish anything!

Voice/Word Choice: 3

The wording in this response about a Destination Imagination competition 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. While there is evidence of precise and specific language, it is
neither varied nor consistent throughout the story, and is not particularly engaging.
I'll never forget the time. I felt scared. Let me tell you more about this scary day, but happy at the end.

I remember it well. It was April 11, 2015. The temperature was very hot. I was sitting down in the basement when my dad said, "Where is Jarrell?" First, we searched the house. We didn't find him.

Then, we looked outside, and we looked all behind the garage, house, and alley. We didn't find him. I started to cry. "Jarrell, Jarrell, where are you?"

Finally, we called the police. The drive faster than a sound wave. We had told them what happened. Then, out of nowhere, Jarrell came out of the house, saying, "I was under the bed, you guys didn't find me!" We all yelled. "JARRELL!" We were happy. We saw him again.

I know you know all about me and my family not being able to find Jarrell. We searched...
All around yelling "JARRELL!" you know I also cried and we called the police. Jarrell came out of the house saying "I was under the bed you guys didn't find me." If you scared like me, I hope your story wasn't similar to this.

Voice/Word Choice: 3

In this response about searching for a lost sibling, the wording is generally expressive, and conveys a certain sense of the writer. The voice is generally appropriate for the purpose and audience, and language is generally precise and varied.
I never thought that my day would end up this way. I never thought that my Saturday would be this fantastic.

It all started with me and my mom. We were getting ready for my friend's party. I was a wonderful Saturday morning. We were going to skate. Daze were my friend's party was at.

Then, once we got there I started to skate on the skating rink. We played games. Me and my friend friended that good at skating. After a while we got on the bumper cars. I was great at the bumper cars.

Finally, we went on a roller coaster and that was very fun going in circles very fast. It was kind a weird because there were all girls and I was the only boy there. We also played laser tag and we were both tied.
In conclusion as you can see this is a time you will never forget. Take my advice you should always go to birthday parties.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

In this response about going to a birthday party, the wording is occasionally expressive, and conveys a limited sense of the writer. A weaker voice is sometimes inappropriate for the audience and purpose. The language is only occasionally specific and precise and while the reader is aware of what happened at Skate Daze, there is little sense of how the writer felt during this time, and what was so “fantastic” about the day.
I will never forget the time I went to Germany with my dad and I.

One day my dad and I were about ready to go on our trip. We were packed and ready to go. The my uncle picked us up and dropped us off at the airport.

After that we went on a plane to Germany. Then we landed and found our place and we had lived there for a year. They had cool toilets and bathrooms.

Finally we had to start heading home. We had a long ride to the airport, then my uncle picked us up and we started to head home.

I felt great because I got to use a nice bathroom.

I learned that Germany has a highway that you can go any speed you want.
The Time I'll never forget

The time I'll never forget is on March forth 2015 that's my baby brothers birthday. It was fun because we went Sioux city with him and I got him a birthday card. Then we went to Hyve and bought dinner for him and food for the house and for Indian tepee. So that it for hyve we spent like $300.00 at hyve, so we got bottles for him and headed back to Macy. Then when we got back we put food away then started cooking. Then we had to go get the cake, icecream and cookies in the van oh and the ice. Then we ate and talked for a while then people started to leave so I had to say good night so they all left. So when they all left I took a shower then went to bed.

Bye!!

Voice/Word Choice: 1

In this response about a trip to Sioux City, the wording is lifeless and mechanical, and conveys little sense of the writer. The voice is inappropriate for the purpose and audience, and while the language is occasionally specific, it is not precise or varied.
California

Yes! I'm going to Cali to see my Uncle. I'm so glad wait a minute let's go back to when I first was going on the trip.

It was a summer morning in August I was in Omaha we went to the bus station my mom and I were going to Cali!

When we were on the bus it was as noisy as a FRC. When we first got to Denver it was night I was asleep.

When we got to Utah I was awake when we got to Las Vegas there bought a new driver.

Voice/Word Choice: 1

In this brief response about a bus ride to California, 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
In October 2012 I went to Disney World with my family. One memory I won't forget is our 3 hour plane ride which turned out to really be a 6 hour plane ride.

My dad wanted to make sure we boarded our flight at the right time so we got there about 3 hours before take off.

Once we got through all the high tech scanners and crowds of people we sat by the door to our aircraft.

We only waited for 30 or 40 minutes until they called our flight name. Of course first class seat people got to go first.

We sat in our plane seats while the airline people showed us how to operate the lights and what to do in emergencies.

A guy raised his hand and said, "I don't have a light cover on my over head light."

The airline people made us get off the plane so they could look for it.

While we had time to waste we sat in one spot the whole time. I got bored so I took out my hairbrush from my case and started brushing my hair. I asked my mom...
if she could do my hair.
My man reached into her purse and grabbed these little rubber bands and started putting them in my hair. I thought I was going to look horrible.

After she was done, I looked at it in her pocket mirror. Guess what? It looked awesome! It looked like a spider made it! It was about 11:45 when they called our flight name again. We got on the plane again and they had caution tape on the to plane seats so no one could sit in them.

Now I know that airline people over exaggerate on their problems. I had an entertaining time on the airplane and at Disney World.

The End

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 4

Sentences vary in length and structure throughout this story about a trip to Disney World. Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. While there are a few usage and spelling errors, they do not distract and conventions are consistently correct.
Have you ever went in a haunted house? haunted houses can be very scary.

One day at the County Fair, my cousin, K... and I were riding rides.

After, we got off the Ferris Wheel we saw this haunted house ride. So we thought we needed to try it.

We got in line and my friend B... and her mom were standing in line.

"B...'s mom, I said, Hey, do you want to take B... in the haunted house?"

We said, Sure, we would.
love to.” So we got in line and waited until it was our turn.

When it was finally our turn, we got in the moving cart and went into the Haunted House. When we got into the Haunted House, blood was dripping, skulls were everywhere, and a pretend ghost popped out in front of us.

B. [masked] was crying and screaming. R. [masked] had big wide, eyes. I was scared too. R. [masked] and I were trying to calm B. [masked] down.

Finally, we got out of the cart I and “sent” screaming to our parents. Oh my God! That scary!” I told R. [masked] said, “Yes, yes! It was scary.”
After we were all calmed down, R. and I got snow cones. I got blue raspberry and R. got strawberry flavor. We sat down and ate those on the bench. All of a sudden R. says, "BRAIN FREEZE!"

When we were done eating, snow cones, S. said, "I think we're going to go home, thanks for taking us in the Haunted House. You're welcome see you sometime," R. and I said.

We found our parents and told them everything. R. and I had to go home.

"That was the scariest day of my life," I told myself. I will definitely not go on that again.

Sentences vary in length and structure throughout this story about a haunted house ride. Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are consistently correct.
"Wake up." My mom said gently. On August 13, 2010 was my very, very, very first day at Bishop Elementary. I was five years old and I was going to PreK. My sister was going to 3rd grade. I was also just learning how to speak. I knew not that many words. My mom grabbed my little lion backpack. She held my hand and put me in the car with my sister. My sister put my seatbelt for me, then my mom started our old red car. It took about 6 min to get there. While my mom was driving I felt like I had butterflies in my stomach. We parked we went inside my sister left and now it was just me. When we finally found the room we opened it, I was so, so, so scared.
Me and my mom walked in. I was holding my mom's hand very tight. Then a teacher walked up to me. She introduced herself. Her name was Mrs. Stephanie. She also introduced Mrs. Carrie and Mrs. Read. My mom talked to them then she left. Mrs. Stephanie told me to put my backpack away. Mrs. Carrie showed me around. She showed me the kids. They looked so overjoyed. I thought to myself if they are not scared, why should I. Mrs. Read said, "Line up!" I didn't know what that meant but I just did what the other kids did. Mrs. Read opened the door we were going to the cafeteria. We ate chicken. It was so yummy. The three teachers led us back to our class. I was starting to feel better.
They told us to play. I played
the blocks I rember I build a
 car. We played for about half
 an hour. When finally, Mrs. Read
 said "go on the carpet." We
 are going to learn about
 shapes. We were having so much
 fun learning them the bell rang.
 That meant we had to leave.
 I didn't want to leave.
 I was having so much fun.
 But still I put my backpack
 on and headed to the door.
 I saw my mom there. I
 ran up to her. I said, "I
 want to come back here."
 She told me "You are tomorrow."
 I felt so happy, I couldn't
 wait for tomorrow.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this story about the first day of school. Phrasing
generally sounds natural. While some errors in grammar and usage are evident, conventions are usually
correct and the errors present do not distract the reader.
One freezing winter day my cousin Hailey was throwing a welcome back party for her little brother Kaydin from the hospital. We were playing on the donkey when I heard a cat meow. I flew over my coat and zoomed out the door. I look around.

Once again I heard a meow. I took down a small white cat. She had spots on her ear. Her eyes open and yelled. "Mom, come quick." They came running out the door. "What?" she asked. "I'm fine but look," I pointed down. Her eyes focused on the cat. When we kept her I asked everyone.
over. Mom and Dad looked at each other and then started to whisper.

Finally the turn around.

"We are coming back tomorrow, and if she's still here we can keep her."

Without screaming.

I ran to the sink and began to cry and then she was back in the corner so I stopped.

My parents looked at each other and smiled.

The next day, "Hurry dad." I shouted as we pulled in the driveway.

I hopped out of the car and walked up to the porch and saw her.

Then we talked.

in the car and left. We didn't have another day.
I came home from school and my mom named her Fancy. And that is a moment I will never forget.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3  

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this story about finding a stray cat. Phrasing generally sounds natural. While some errors in grammar, usage, and spelling are evident, the errors present do not distract the reader.
School was out until next year. I walked down the hallway the outside and walked to the church parking lot. And looked for my mom's car.

"Mom!"

"Yes."

"I'm so excited!"

"Me too, and I hope to hear what you did today."

Later, after we get the New Dog.

"Okay."

"If you wanna get a dog... Then get in the car.

I got in and closed the door with a loud slam.

"We need your sister home before we get a New Dog."

My mom said as the train got over.

"Hello Dad, Flash, and New Dog Soon!"

"Hello Sweetie."

Dad said.

I got up the stairs and peted Flash.

"Flash, you're getting off your."

I whispered.

My mom doesn't want my sister to know.

"Hello mom, Dad. I'm bonie."

I heard my sister's voice, and my eyes got wide.
"Well Sam how was your last day of 5th grade?"
"Good"
"Okay everyone get in the car." My Dad says
"Okay." Sam says
I walked out the front door to my mom's car.
"You'll have to find out." I said I looked out my window till I heard
"You tell me now or you won't see know pretty sight."
I just smiled and said "Fine!"
I looked out my window and said
"We're getting a new dog!"
"5 more minutes" says my Dad.
My sister was so excited I was too.
I couldn't believe it.
I thought, "This was the best day ever!"

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

Sentences only occasionally vary in length and structure in this story about getting a new dog. Phrasing occasionally sounds unnatural. A number of errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are evident and may distract the reader.
Have you ever had a party at someone else's house?

It was April 19, 2015 on a Sunday. My family had just left church. We were all heading to my aunt's house in a small neighborhood in the middle of nowhere. My aunt greeted us as we came in. We watched TV as we waited for everyone.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

Sentences seldom vary in length or structure in this brief story. Phrasing occasionally sounds unnatural. While there are few errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling, the amount of writing demonstrated is not sufficient to have shown adequate control in this domain.
First we all went to the firework stash. There were big and small fireworks, but there was just one big firework. I was looking for something. And then I found it. I was so happy. So when every Betty was done looking, we all got in the car and left.

I was so excited to see the firework light. In fact, my dad said I could light it. We were happy. It was time to light the firework, so I lit it. The firework and it blew up coconuts. I was so happy.

I will never forget the first time I pop firework.
Camping trip

One day we were going on a camping trip. After a grab camping trip so we
so we dressed and before we got mom said
chocolate and crackers mom said good
sign how will ever do what about animals
there to good hurry up were going
to leave

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

In this very brief response about a camping trip, sentences seldom vary in length or structure. Phrasing sounds awkward and a lengthy run-on confuses the reader. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors throughout the brief story severely impede the reader.