

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Descriptive Writing (Unit 3, pages 130–133)

Assignment: In order to inspire an artist, write a one-page description of something memorable in your life.

Jumping Into Happiness

When I get to the public swimming pool, I can't wait to jump into the water. The hot, rough concrete surrounding the pool always burns my feet. I only need to take six steps from the changing room to reach the pool's shallow end. But I keep walking. I walk past the lawn chairs filled with mothers. I go all the way to the deep end. At last, I cannonball into the cool, clear water.

The pool is crowded with people of all ages, shapes, and sizes wearing brightly colored bathing suits. Lifeguards sit on top of their wooden towers and blow their whistles when they see too much rough-housing around the pool. Most of the lifeguards have dark tans. They wear white streaks of sunblock on their noses. Some of them wear hats and sunglasses to shade their eyes or maybe just to look cool.

After we swim for a while, my friends and I like to invent jumps off the tall, springy diving board. While I wait in line for the board, I can taste and smell the chlorine on my lips. I hear my friends laughing in the deep end and little kids shrieking in the shallow end. Sometimes I have to wait in line so long that the hot sun starts to dry my skin. Finally, my turn comes. I love the feeling I get as I jump off the diving board. For a second I am floating above the water, and I am as high as the lifeguards. I look down at everyone in the pool below me. Then I land in the deep end with a splash. As soon as I'm underwater, everything is quiet. When I open my eyes underwater, I see legs kicking and pedaling. I pop up for air a minute later, and suddenly the world is loud again.

If my parents would let me, I'd swim every day. Even if the chlorine turns my hair green again like last year, I'll keep going to the pool as much as I can. For me, the public swimming pool is the best place to be.

Summary: *The description contains details that refer to all five senses, and it uses vivid words and images. The writing is organized so that a reader can create a full, detailed picture of the subject.*

The description would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 94 if evaluated according to the analytic method—32 points for Focus/Organization, 34 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Describes texture, temperature, and sights

Includes details about sounds and colors

Moves between close-up and far-away details

Uses action words to make the writing vivid