

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Expository Writing (Unit 5, pages 246–249)

Assignment: For a travelers' guidebook, write a one-page article about the development and construction of a landmark in your neighborhood, city, or state.

The Harold Washington Public Library

In 1987 Chicago's city council decided to build a new library at 400 South State Street. Five teams of architects made drawings of what they thought the new building should look like and the city was invited to vote on them. From the beginning, the Harold Washington Library was meant to be an important, new landmark designed by the people for the people.

The architects had to consider many things when designing the new library. The main thing was price. The library couldn't cost more than \$140 million dollars, which seems like a lot but is pretty cheap for a new building. There were other things to think about as well. For example, the roof couldn't be too steep, because in the winter snow could slide off and hurt someone. Also, the el, Chicago's elevated train, ran right through the two blocks set aside for the new library. The architects had the option of designing a building over the el tracks or using only the space south of them.

The design that won the city's contest was from the architectural firm Hammond Beeby and Babka. Their team came up with a plan that called for the new library to be constructed of red brick and granite, the same materials found in buildings a hundred years ago. Plus, the design used thick sloping walls and high arched windows. The architects also included some modern elements, such as a metal and glass roof and giant green ornaments that perch on the roof's four corners. There are also a lot of symbols hidden in the building. For instance, on the outside walls, a huge owl symbolizes wisdom and wheat represents the midwest.

The library is named after former Chicago mayor Harold Washington. Mayor Washington was the city's first African American mayor, and he was so popular he was known as "the people's mayor." He was in office from only 1983 to 1987, when he died of a sudden heart attack. After he died, the city wanted to remember him somehow, so they decided to name the new library after him.

The Harold Washington Library Center is the biggest city library in the country. It's ten stories tall and has over one million books. In addition to the six floors of open stacks, the library also has a bookstore. There's even a coffee shop on the ground floor and a glass covered garden on the top floor where anyone who wants to can relax and read a good book.

Summary: *This is a clear account that makes good use of details and facts.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 98 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opening clearly introduces the article's main idea.

Includes relevant facts, reasons, and other specific details; explains an unfamiliar term

Ideas develop in a clear, logical order.

Uses effective transitions to connect ideas and facts

Conclusion focuses on details that reflect the main idea.