

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Persuasive Writing (Unit 6, pages 298–301)

Assignment: For a magazine called *Our Future*, write a one-page article, letter, or short story to persuade people to behave today in ways that will improve the future.

Biking Today for a Better Tomorrow

If you're like me, you probably have been riding your bike almost every week since you were six or seven years old. Maybe you ride for fun, or maybe you use your bike for practical reasons once in a while, such as to hold down a paper route or to get to school. But have you ever considered that you could ride your bike for the rest of your life and never need a car? Riding your bike can do a lot to improve both your future and the future of society.

Opening engages reader and establishes writer's position on topic.

For one thing, bike riding is great exercise. If you use your bike to run basic errands around town, your legs as well as your cardiovascular system—your heart and lungs—grow stronger, and you'll live longer. Bike riding is also a great way to stay in touch with the world around you. When you ride your bike, you'll see things you've never noticed before, such as wildflowers growing in a ditch or a bright red cardinal sitting on a fence.

Effective transitions connect ideas and examples.

Bikes are good for the city or town that you live in, as well. The more people that ride their bikes to work or school, the less traffic congestion and pollution there will be. Bike-friendly communities—places that have special lanes for bike riding on the streets or paths around town—can even change the way a town develops. Communities could keep more land for farms, parks, and nature because people could ride their bikes downtown rather than driving to new strip malls. Some bicycling advocates even believe that the world would be a friendlier, safer place if everyone rode bikes instead of driving cars. You would know your neighbors, and you would feel like an important part of the community. They say that people might be less likely to commit vandalism or other crimes because the people around them might be familiar neighbors and friends instead of strangers.

Topic sentence is clearly stated and fits overall argument.

A future full of cars would be a future full of nothing but smog, super-highways, and parking lots. It's a future in which everyone might drive from home to work and from work to the mall and barely ever deal with another person face-to-face. Come to think of it, that sounds a lot like the world some of us live in now. If you'd rather live in a future full of green spaces, clean air, and friendly neighbors, keep riding your bike.

Uses logical reasoning to support argument

Conclusion includes persuasive language and restates call to action.

Summary: *This article uses clear evidence and a sophisticated rhetorical style to persuade readers to take a specific action. Throughout the piece, the overall organization is effective, and the examples and reasons presented as supporting evidence are relevant, sound, and accurate.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 98 if it were evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 33 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.