

# Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name ..... Class ..... Date .....

## Average Writing Model

### Writing Process in Action: Personal Writing (Unit 1, pages 28–31)

**Assignment:** For a class journal, write a one- to two-page account of an incident or experience that caused you to change.

#### The Fiddler Crab's Second Chance

On summer weekends my family and I like to go to the beach. The beach is about forty-five minutes away from our town. My mother paints at the beach, and my father reads the newspaper. I love to hunt for rocks and shells.

One day last summer my friend Mike came with us to the beach. When we got to the beach, Mike and I jumped out of the car with anticipation.

After running on the beach for a while, we got tired and started walking. I pointed out different kinds of shells to Mike. He was more interested in racing again and in throwing the football back and forth.

When we got to the tide pools I saw a pregnant fiddler crab sitting on a rock in the middle of stagnant water. The fiddler crab was left behind when the tide went out, leaving her and her babies to die. I explained the situation to Mike.

Mike jumped up and through the football to me and we started running down the beach again, tossing the football back and forth, but I couldn't enjoy myself because I kept thinking about the little crab and her babys. Everything dies sometimes, that's a law of nature. Do nature's laws prevent people from helping to save animals lives?

I ran back to the tidal pools, looking for the crab. I found the crab clinging to the same rock. I could feel there was still a little life left in her and I wanted to save her. I ran quickly out about a hundred yards to the gentle breakers of low tide. I don't know if she was still alive but I hope she was. I remembered my dad showing me the skeleton of a giant horseshoe crab on the beach last year. Did you know the exoskeleton of a horseshoe crab protects it from predators? I threw the fiddler crab back to her home—the vast ocean. I think that I gave her and her babies a second chance and I felt good about doing that. This was an important moment for me. Humans have a responsibility to give other animals a chance to survive.

**Summary:** This piece fulfills the assignment by describing an incident that led to a change in the author, but the ideas are not fully developed and some of the details are irrelevant. The piece could be improved by using transitions to establish the connection between the events and the author's thoughts and feelings.

This piece might receive a 3 if evaluated by the holistic method. It might receive an 85 if evaluated by the analytic method—28 points for Focus/Organization, 30 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 27 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

*Opening lacks focus.*

*Lack of transitions makes the flow of ideas hard to follow.*

*Irrelevant details interrupt narrative flow.*

*Meaning of the experience to the author is suggested but could be more fully explored.*