

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: The Writing Process (Unit 2, pages 94–97)

Assignment: In one or two pages, describe a particular aspect of your personal history or heritage.

My Grandmother

My grandmother, Nadine, belongs to a different time and place than I do. She was born on a Texas farm in 1914; my family lives in a city of the twenty-first century. Despite these differences, the stories of her early life on a Texas farm have become part of our family history and are reflected in the way my family lives today.

My grandmother comes from Panhandle, Texas. Her father, my great-grandfather, was a “cattleman.” A cattleman was a common job in the Southwest in the early 1900s. Cattlemen would take out bank loans in the spring to buy a herd of cattle. They would graze them all summer and then “run” their cattle north to Chicago to the cattle auctions. If the price of cattle was good, they would make enough to pay off the bank and to live on the rest of the year. My grandmother says that some years the family made good money. Other years, Nadine would listen to her father pacing the floor all night, mumbling about “the poor house.” I think it is because of this fear of economic insecurity that my grandmother always told my father to have a dependable job. My father inherited this concern over money. He tells me and my brothers that we should never owe more than we can pay.

My grandmother had a typical farm childhood. She was one of six girls born over the course of twenty years. When Nadine was born, her oldest sister was nineteen! Each daughter took care of the next youngest daughter. There were always chores for my grandmother to do. She boiled the wash, helped to make soap from lard and lye, and baked bread. The tradition of large families spread out in age has been passed down to our family. Like my grandmother, I am the youngest. The oldest one of my three brothers is fourteen years older than I am! Also like my grandmother, my brothers took care of me when I was little. However, none of us have as many chores as my grandmother had.

Perhaps the most fascinating story about my grandmother is the story of her leaving the farm. When she was in her early twenties, Nadine decided to move to New York City and become a singer. She ended up singing in a quartet for fifteen years. When I think about my future, with apprehension, I remember this story and the spirit of independence and determination that I’ve inherited. Then I feel hopeful and proud.

I’ve learned a lot about myself and my family from listening to my grandmother’s stories. Even though we live in Baltimore, far from the Texas youth of my grandmother, these stories show me how traditions and beliefs can cross distance and years.

Summary: *This well-organized piece treats the assignment in a sophisticated manner by drawing parallels between the writer’s family history and the present.*

The piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 95 if evaluated by the analytic method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 25 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Provides clear thesis statement

Explains unfamiliar terms and provides enough information to make the material clear

Details relate to the focus.

Uses sentence variation and carefully chosen vocabulary

Conclusion states implications of the thesis.