

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

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 was born in 1914 and is almost ninety. 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.

Introduces the topic and defines the focus

My grandmother was born in Panhandle, Texas. My grandmother's father was a cattleman. 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. Some years, my grandmother told me, the family made good money. Other years they worried about getting sent to "the poor house." My grandmother always tells me that I should get a dependable job. My father always tells us that we should never owe more than we can pay.

Doesn't explain terms that may be unfamiliar to the audience or elaborate on the facts

Perhaps my favorite story about my grandmother is the story of her leaving the farm and moving east to become a singer. Nadine majored in music at the University of Kansas. Her parents had moved to Kansas when she twelve or thirteen. She tells me they were happy to leave Texas because the weather was so bad there. After graduating, she decided to move to New York City and become a singer. When she told her father her plans, he said he would disown her if she moved to New York alone. My grandmother went to New York anyway. She ended up singing in a quartet for fifteen years. I feel hopeful and proud when I think about this story.

Uses transitions to move between paragraphs

My grandmother had a typical farm childhood. She was one of six girls born over the course of twenty years. Her oldest sister was nineteen when she was born! Each daughter took care of the next youngest daughter. They all took care of Nadine, the baby in the family. There were always chores for my grandmother to do but they had fun, too. She told me how she and her sisters would decorated "May baskets" with colored paper, fill them with candy and deliver them to the boys in the neighborhood that they liked best. I think that this part of her childhood sounds old-fashioned.

Vivid detail, but doesn't relate to focus

I've learned a lot about myself and my family from listening to these stories about my grandmother. Even though we live in Baltimore, far from the Texas youth of my grandmother, these stories show me how stories survive generations.

Sense of completion, but the conclusion isn't supported by the body of the piece

Summary: *This piece presents interesting facts about an aspect of the writer's personal history. However, the lack of a strong organizational principle and the inclusion of irrelevant details weaken the focus. The piece could be improved by presenting the events in the grandmother's life in the order in which they occurred and by organizing each paragraph around a main idea.*

The piece might receive a 3 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive an 88 if evaluated by the analytic method—30 points for Focus/Organization, 30 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.