

Below-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Personal Writing (Unit 1, pages 24–27)

Assignment: For a magazine directed at ten- to fifteen-year-old students, write a one-page article about a special day or event in your life.

Holiday Parades

Sometimes my mom cooks pancakes for us. I get to sleep in late and do whatever I want all day. We don't have school on Martin Luther King day. We studied him. In class this year not last year so much. Our teacher told us to get ideas for the day.

Me and some of my friends got together who like to play music and put on shows. We asked our brothers and sisters to help. We had an idea for a parade. That's what we did, too.

We spent lots of time getting ready for the parade. It was fun. We made signs and put up fliers so people would come. During the parade we sang a song that Dr. King used to sing. We sang it over and over. Some people came out and sang with us. Then Sondra read a poem. I don't know what difference it would make for Dr. King. I liked the parade, though. I saw one downtown, it was huge, it had marching bands and fire trucks and all kinds of people. I really loved that parade but I wasn't in it. Just watching. Our parade was for Dr. King and that one wasn't. I can't remember. Maybe for another holiday I think St. Patrick's Day probably because I remember wearing green too.

Introduction is not cohesive and does not clearly introduce the topic.

Mechanical errors and a lack of transitions make it hard to follow the writer's ideas.

Includes details about a special event

Includes details that are too broad for this account

Summary: *This account includes some of the writer's thoughts and feelings and tells about a special event, but the writing does not focus on the event and contains significant grammatical errors. The piece could be improved by the inclusion of an introductory paragraph that identifies the special event and the writer's feelings about it. Then the event could be described in time order, with each body paragraph focusing on one stage in the event and the writer's feelings about that stage.*

This piece might receive a 1 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 61 if scored by the analytic method—23 for Focus/Organization, 23 for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 15 for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.