

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: The Writing Process (Unit 2, pages 86–89)

Assignment: For a school newspaper, write a two-paragraph account of an exciting event in your life.

The Sound of Success

We could hear the hum of people arriving in the auditorium. It was warm backstage, my suit was tight, and I wasn't used to wearing a tie. As the buzz in the theater got louder, I started to sweat more and more. Jason pushed me over to the curtain. Through a crack we could see the packed house—there must have been 200 people there! Before I could find my mom in the crowd, Ms. Jackson called us all back to the stage. I went and found my seat in the horn section. I was nervous and could feel my hands shaking. We'd been rehearsing for two months, but I still wasn't sure I knew my part.

The audience went quiet. The curtains opened and everyone started to applaud. Jason, standing next to me, grinned and took a little bow. When they stopped clapping, Ms. Jackson picked up her baton and looked at me. I raised my trumpet to my lips and took a deep breath. When her baton came down I blew. I heard the opening notes of the march coming out of my instrument loud and clear, and then the other horn players joined in. All of a sudden I wasn't nervous any more. In fact, I felt great.

Good use of language and sensory details to build suspense

Effective transition words make order of events clear; varied sentence structure engages the reader.

Vivid details lead up to a satisfying ending.

Summary: *This piece uses vivid detail and effective language to describe the recital and convey the excitement surrounding it. The varied sentences and smooth transitions make the writing a pleasure to read.*

This piece might receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 100 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.