

## 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.

**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.*

*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.*