

# Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name ..... Class ..... Date .....

## Average Writing Model

### Writing Process in Action: Descriptive Writing (Unit 3, pages 160–163)

**Assignment:** For the magazine *Vicarious Voyager*, write a one- to two-page descriptive article of an imagined place.

#### The Black Beach

The beach wasn't very big, and it was covered with black sand. On one side of the beach there was a huge rock, maybe thirty feet high. There were huge white birds that flew around at the top. Sometimes they'd fly down and look at me. They were a little scarrey, but they didn't seem scared of me.

I was half in the water and half out of it. The water was really warm like a bath almost. Some of the sand had gotten under my clothes, and it cut my skin, sharp like glass. The water kept washing over me but I was too tired to get up. Shells and gravel and jelly fish floated by me and landed up on the beach.

My life raft lay up there. It was shredded. I stood up and my head spun because I was so hungry and tired. I felt dizzy. I didn't know how long I'd been shipwrecked. I couldn't remember too much about what happened before. Just that the boat had cracked into pieces during a big storm so I'd gotten on my life raft. So now I was here.

I walked across the beach. The black sand was sharp on my bare feet. I must have lost my shoes in the ocean or something. The sun was starting to set. It probably wouldn't be light for very much longer now. The moon came out. It shone over the jungle. At the edge there was a row of bushes covered with red flowers.

When I got to the edge of the jungle I tripped all of a sudden. I grabbed one of the bushes so that I wouldn't fall. A bunch of thorns bloomed on the bush. Then someone screamed in the distance. I didn't know if it was an animal or a person. But it was very creepy. I looked around and then sat down on a rock. I was so hungry. "Where am I? What will I eat?" I thought. I just sat there for a while trying to figure everything out.

**Summary:** *This piece uses a consistent point of view to describe an imaginary place, but some of the details are vague, and the vocabulary is occasionally repetitive. The writing could be improved by using more varied, specific word choices and by adding transitions and spatial details to help the reader more clearly follow the organizational strategy being employed throughout the piece.*

*This piece would probably receive a 3 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 80 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—26 points for Focus/Organization, 28 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 26 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.*

*Opening introduces the setting but contains a spelling error.*

*Maintains first-person point of view and uses figurative language*

*Lack of effective transitions creates choppy sentences.*

*Presents sensory details, but spatial description is slightly vague*

*Provides first-person impressions*

Descriptive Writing