

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: The Writing Process (Unit 2, pages 100–103)

Assignment: Write a two-page essay that shows how a childhood experience helped shape the person you are today.

Going With the Flow

The thing I dreaded most happened when I was ten. As soon as it happened, I knew that things in my family would never be the same again.

It happened on an ordinary Saturday afternoon after Little League practice. When I walked into the house, I knew something was up. My mom was sitting in the den with her boyfriend. They both looked formal and stiff. Mom patted the couch cushion between them.

“Sit down over here, dear,” she said. “I have something to tell you.” My heart started thumping because I was sure by the serious way she was talking that something was wrong. “Richard and I have decided to get married,” she said. “Now you’ll have a dad.”

Mom broke into a smile, but I couldn’t smile back. My mother had raised me alone ever since my father died when I was a baby. Since she was the only parent, she took me everywhere she went. I never had a sitter. But when she met Richard, everything started to change. For the first time, I was stuck at home with a sitter so Mom could go out with Richard. When I would complain about Richard to my mom, she’d point out that he always offered to play catch with me or shoot hoops at the park. But I wanted my mom all to myself. I couldn’t imagine Richard living with us in our own house. Whenever I thought about him eating breakfast with us every morning, it gave me the chills.

That afternoon as I sat next to Richard, I didn’t know that I would grow to love him. Today, he is both my dad and one of my best friends. He got me interested in hockey and shows up at all of my games. He even made a rink in our backyard. Now I play so well that I have a chance at a hockey scholarship for college.

Other good things also grew out of my mom’s marriage to Richard. For one thing, I’m a more flexible person now than I was six years ago. I realized change doesn’t have to be a terrible thing. Sometimes change can even be exciting.

In the last few years, I’ve had to face other big changes. One of them was moving here to Portland last year. But this time, instead of being angry, I told myself, “Hey, this move is happening no matter what, so you may as well roll with it. It’ll be okay. After all, the thing you feared most happened, and you survived!” In fact, I have to admit, not only did I survive the thing I feared most, but my new life turned out surprisingly well.

Summary: This essay focuses on a significant childhood experience and shows how it has shaped the writer. The writing is well organized and includes vivid details and believable dialogue.

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.

Opening uses suspense to engage the reader’s interest.

Transition words and phrases effectively introduce the scene.

Realistic dialogue helps bring the event to life.

Clearly identifies the significance of the childhood event

Includes specific, vivid details

Paragraphs flow smoothly from one into the next.

States the impact of the experience

Conclusion presents thoughtful, specific insights.