

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Narrative Writing (Unit 4, pages 194–197)

Assignment: For an essay contest judged by high school juniors, write a two-page narrative about a person you find astonishing and inspiring.

My Uncle Chuck

When my great-uncle Chuck was a soldier in World War II, he performed a huge act of courage. The Germans tossed a live hand grenade into his battle position. If Chuck didn't act quickly, the grenade would explode and kill all the soldiers nearby. Taking daring and quick action, Chuck picked up the grenade and threw it back toward the Nazis. He was a hero, but he paid a huge price. He lost his hands.

Before he passed away, I used to see my great-uncle Chuck at church on Sundays. By then he was a doctor. Most people would think it would be impossible for a man who had his physical handicap to become an MD, but he became a radiologist.

After the war, Chuck flew back to the states. For a few days, he wandered through San Francisco. He couldn't bear to go home to Sioux City, Iowa right away because he couldn't face his fiancée Catherine. Chuck had only a stub remaining for his left hand. His right hand was replaced with a hook. He didn't think Catherine would want to marry him with these major handicaps. He really loved her so it broke his heart to think that. Finally, he got up the courage to call her. She said words that he would never forget, "When are you coming home, Chuck? You and I have some marrying to do"! He must have been really happy that she married him anyway. They always seemed happy together.

Uncle Chuck became interested in medicine while he was in the army hospitals. Like I say, he ended up becoming a radiologist. In that kind of medicine, he did not need full use of his hands, just his mind. He was really smart. He didn't go to college until after he was home from the war. He got to go on the GI bill. That helped a lot of people go around that time. During college, his wife Catherine typed all his papers.

Chuck was a tall, digified, good-looking man. When I saw him at church he'd usually be holding one of his seven children. If I cared to look, I could see the hook on his right hand. I usually never noticed it though, probably because he himself never seemed to pay any attention to his handicap so why should I. He was focused on life. And that takes courage!

Summary: This narrative clearly shows the significance of a memorable and inspirational character. However, information is not presented in a logical order, and grammatical errors distract from the focus.

This piece might receive a 2 if evaluated according to the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 79 if evaluated according to the analytic scoring method—24 points for Focus/Organization, 30 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 25 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Realistic action brings the character to life.

Clearly indicates the significance of the individual

Lack of transitions and deviation from chronological order make sequence of events confusing.

Good use of detail to reveal the character's struggle

Dialogue helps make people and events real.

Information is not presented in a logical order; some information does not maintain the focus on the subject.

Physical description paints a visual picture of the character.

Run-on sentence is awkward.