

# Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

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

## Above-average Writing Model

### Writing Process in Action: Expository Writing (Unit 5, pages 252–255)

**Assignment:** Write a two-page essay explaining to a corporate board of directors how a piece of high-tech equipment would benefit your school.

#### On-Campus Movie Studios

At Sullivan High School we have a great Web site for interactive learning that enables students to share their projects. Presently, however, we can only post text documents and still photos there. Our Web site's educational benefits would be greatly enhanced if we could also post student videos. To do that, our school needs a top-end portable computer, film-editing software, and a camcorder.

Why do we need videos on our Web site? Because film is far superior to text and still photos in capturing certain academic projects. Right now, the sophomore home economics class is studying child care. Students have gone to local preschools and posted reports about them on the Web site. Several students said a video format would have been more effective than text for their reports. For example, they could have presented footage of a day care worker actually calming an angry two-year-old child instead of explaining the situation in writing.

We could use video in many other ways as well. Video can show students performing experiments in science classes, can capture live performances in the music and theater department, or can record hands-on demonstrations at Sullivan. The whole community could benefit from having online access to these educational and cultural events. Since the community pays the taxes that fund Sullivan, it deserves that type of access.

To make these films for our Web site, Sullivan needs a portable computer with film editing software and an attached camcorder. The computer needs a processor speed of at least 500 MHz. State-of-the-art models that are available now have up to 256MB RAM and up to 18.1GB hard drives for storing the files and applications necessary to produce multiple videos. The computer must also have a port for digital video editing and data transfer. These capabilities would allow us to capture digital video on location anywhere. The computer must also be equipped with video-editing software. The complete system I've just described costs approximately \$3,000.

At Sullivan High, we already have the student expertise to make videos and exciting projects that deserve to be shared on video through our Web site. What we don't have is the technical equipment to make this happen. Three thousand dollars would purchase the necessary equipment and make this dream a reality.

**Summary:** This essay offers well-supported explanations that flow coherently from a sound thesis. The writing is appropriate to a corporate audience.

The essay would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 98 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 33 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

*Thesis clearly states what equipment is needed and why.*

*Good transitions create coherence.*

*Cause-effect organization well-suited to expository essay*

*The body of the narrative flows from the opening thesis; clearly explains specific benefits of the equipment.*

*Basic explanation of how the equipment works*

*Well supported with specific details*

*Throughout, formal tone suitable to a corporate audience*