

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Persuasive Writing (Unit 6, pages 306–309)

Assignment: Prepare a one- to two-page speech persuading ninth graders to take a particular course of action in order to avoid a common pitfall of high school.

Orange Neon Socks

Welcome to high school! You are probably receiving lots of advice: Study hard. Be polite. Remember your locker combination. Well, here's one more nugget of wisdom to help you make it through high school: wear orange neon socks! That is, wear orange neon socks *if you feel like it*. Dress in your own style. Be you. Don't bother trying to fit in to the fickle trends of status and fashion.

This advice is probably the opposite of what you're getting right now, isn't it? I bet you're feeling pressured to conform to a certain dress style. I know I was. And I fell for all that pressure too. I learned the hard way, that trying to be cool by wearing brand-name clothes just isn't worth it.

Why not? First of all, following fads is the fastest way to go broke. Brand names are expensive. For example, a brand-name shirt usually costs \$60 or \$70. Even a T-shirt can cost \$40. Once I spent two months' allowance on one pair of pants. I was so broke that I couldn't afford to go out anywhere and wear them!

Secondly, wearing what someone else thinks is cool takes away your control. You feel edgy because you can't make decisions for yourself. In my freshman year, I was always looking around to see what others were wearing. I even studied ads to see what was cool. I can think of a lot better ways to spend my time.

Lastly, when you worry about trends, you don't have a chance to find out what you like. I discovered by accident that it's more fun to create your own style. One day I went to the mall with a group of my friends to buy new athletic shoes. I remember sitting in one store with expensive brand-name shoes piled all around me. I was uptight about spending all my money. I also felt nervous about deciding which pair was the most rad. Then I spotted a pair of orange, neon socks on a sale rack. They were the first clothes I had really liked all day. My friends had a fit when I decided to get them. For once, I didn't care. I just wanted to have glowing feet, I guess. Plus, the socks were in my budget: \$2.79!

Buying those socks was a turning point for me. Pretty soon, I started buying other things that fit my own personality. My friends started to think my clothes were pretty cool, and they envied my suddenly having extra money.

So, if you find yourself studying a rack of overpriced clothes, stop and look around. Isn't there a pair of orange neon socks nearby that you'd really rather buy?

Summary: *This speech is well supported with specific examples and anecdotes and a casual tone that appeals to a ninth-grade audience.*

This speech 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, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Lively opening captures the reader's attention.

Includes a thesis that clearly indicates a course of action

Uses a lightly humorous, conversational tone that is suitable to audience

Generalizations are based on specific details.

Transitions make organization clear.

Persuasive arguments reflect sound reasoning.

Anecdotes support argument.

Conclusion reemphasizes thesis.