



Grade 4
Expository
Writing
Compositions

Training
Samples
Fall 2012
Fort Bend ISD

Galveston

Every summer, me and my family go to Galveston for our family reunion.

When we get there, it's almost time for dinner. (That's how hot it is.) We unpack and get settled in our home.

Then it's time to get the family reunion started! Sometimes we started by playing a game, but other times we just visit and talk. The kids like me start by playing in the sand.

Then it's dinner time. Every day someone different will cook dinner and breakfast. Sometimes in the afternoon one or more adults bring the kids to the ocean.

When it's the end of the week, we pack up and go home.

Score Point - 1

An organizational pattern is apparent but is inappropriate to the purpose and demands of the expository prompt. While most ideas are generally related to the topic (the writer addressed a place), the paper is narrative and does not relate to the expository purpose of the prompt. As such, the central idea is missing. There are some commonly used transitional devices that help progress the essay (e.g. "then it's dinner time") but the writer's progression of ideas is not always controlled.

Development of ideas is weak and the essay is ineffective because the details are inappropriate to the expository prompt. Word choice is vague and reflects little awareness of the expository purpose. Some distracting convention errors are evident, but they do not impede communication.

Reptiles are my favorite animals. I love the feel of their scales. That's why my favorite place is the Reptile Room at the Houston Zoo. They have common reptiles and exotic ones, like pythons and Nile Crocodiles. My favorite reptile there is an albino alligator with pink eyes. He's very nice. All the reptiles live in the dome-shaped building. Some reptiles like the Komodo Dragon have open-air enclosures. This helps them feel more at home. Some of them like the corn snakes you are allowed to touch with the keeper's supervision. One day I may work there too.

Score Point - 3

Essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are suited to the expository task. The writer establishes a clear central idea (reptiles are my favorite animals thus favorite place is Reptile Room at Houston Zoo) and most ideas are related to the central idea and focused on the topic specified in the prompt. Sentence-to-sentence connections support the flow of the essay and show the relationship among ideas.

The writer's response to the prompt is original and reflects some thoughtfulness. The details and examples are appropriate to the expository task.

Word choice is clear and specific. There is an adequate command of conventions. Errors are few and do not disrupt the fluency and clarity of the essay.

One place that is important to me is my school. My school is important to me because you get to learn new things, see your friends that you don't get to see a lot, and you get to see your teacher.

The first reason why I think that school is important is because you get to learn new things. Sometimes you might learn two new things in one subject in one day.

Another reason why I really like school is because you get to see your friends that you probably do not get to see a lot. For example I have a friend in my class that I only get to see at school. We might bump into each other at the store, but that is highly unlikely to happen.

Something else I like about school is my teacher. My teacher's name is Ms. Evans. I like Ms. Evans A.K.A. my teacher because she has a sweet and kind voice. When she gets mad she does not yell she just talks louder than she usually does. At least that is what I think. These are the 3 reasons why school is important to me.

Score Point - 2

The writer uses an organizational structure but it is not appropriate to the purpose of the expository task. The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. The central idea is weak and is formulaic (school is important to me because you get to learn new things, see your friends that you don't get to see a lot, and you get to see your teacher).

Development of ideas is minimal and the response to the prompt is formulaic. This essay demonstrates only a limited understanding of expository writing. Conclusion is also formulaic and does not add to the essay (these are the 3 reasons why school is important to me).

Word choice does little to establish the tone appropriate for the expository task.

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My Hole

Everyone has that special place. It could be far away or close by. A car, a playground or even a bathtub. My special place is this huge hole out at recess. Every day I go and sit there. I even dig at it a little. I like to watch the bugs scot across it. I feel as if I am scooting right along with those bugs. When some kids play soccer, I sit, watch bugs, and watch soccer. It has been there since the middle of my kinder garden year. It is many times more emmence than it was back then. When I sit there I feel like I am away from the whole universe and all the things in it. It makes me feel calm and relaxed. But when recess is over I feel deppress that I have to go back inside away from my special place.

Score Point - 4

The writer's organizational structure is clearly appropriate to purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. It is well-suited to the expository task. There is a clear central idea and all ideas are strongly related to that central idea. The writer sustains the focus and creates a coherent, unified essay. There are meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections.

The writer uses specific, well-chosen details and examples which aid the development of the piece. The writer clearly has a thorough understanding of the expository writing task and writes an essay that is thoughtful, unique and engaging.

Word choice also reflects an awareness of the expository task and contributes to the clarity and quality of the essay. The writer demonstrates an adequate command of conventions and usage.

The smell of mom's mouth watering food. The joy of opening Christmas presents under the Christmas tree. Where do you do all these things? At home. Home is sweet home. My house is a special place to me.

At home I can play in my front yard. Home is special because I can have fun in the grassy green lawn with pine trees that climb high above. I can play or read in the front yard for fun. Spending time with family is special.

Home is also special because I get delicious food. In my bedroom, I can smell my mom's cooking from downstairs. The smell of mom's food makes my mouth water. My stomach starts to growl. It is wonderful to eat such great food.

There is one more thing that makes home so special. It is family. Family is important in my life. They care for me, help me, and do many other things, too. Family makes home special. There is nothing better than being with family.

Home is special to me. A place where you get care, food, fun, and other things. My house is special to me because of all these things. I can't think of any other place that's more special than home!

Score Point - 2

While this essay has a central idea (my house is a special place to me), the writer uses a formulaic response to the prompt. The writer lists three reasons his home is special (I can play in my front yard, I get delicious food, being with family). This is a formulaic five paragraph essay - intro, 3 reasons, and conclusion. The essay demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository purpose. To earn a higher score, the writer should have taken one reason and developed it more fully.

Please remember, formulaic responses score a 2, even if they are well-written formulaic essays.