

We all have favorite objects that we care about and would not want to give up.

Think of one object that is important or valuable to you. For example, it could be a book, a piece of clothing, a game, or any object you care about.

Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

## Scoring Guide

### Score & Description

#### Excellent

- Develops ideas well and uses specific, relevant details across the response.
- Is well organized with clear transitions.
- Sustains varied sentence structure and exhibits specific word choices.
- Exhibits control over sentence boundaries; errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics do not interfere with understanding.

#### Skillful

- Develops ideas with some specific, relevant details.
- Is clearly organized; information is presented in an orderly way, but response may lack transitions.
- Exhibits some variety in sentence structure and exhibits some specific word choices.
- Generally exhibits control over sentence boundaries; errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics do not interfere with understanding.

#### Sufficient

- Clear but sparsely developed; may have few details.
- Provides a clear sequence of information; provides pieces of information that are generally related to each other.
- Generally has simple sentences and simple word choice; may exhibit uneven control over sentence boundaries.
- Has sentences that consist mostly of complete, clear, distinct thoughts; errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics generally do not interfere with understanding.

#### Uneven

May be characterized by one or more of the following:

- Provides limited or incomplete information; may be list-like or have the quality of an outline.
- Is disorganized or provides a disjointed sequence of information.
- Exhibits uneven control over sentence boundaries and may have some inaccurate word choices.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics sometimes interfere with understanding.

#### Insufficient

May be characterized by one or more of the following:

- Provides little information and makes little attempt at development.
- Is very disorganized OR too brief for reader to detect organization.
- Exhibits little control over sentence boundaries and sentence formation; word choice is inaccurate in much of the response.
- Characterized by misspellings, missing words, incorrect word order; errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics are severe enough to make understanding very difficult in much of

the response.

**Unsatisfactory**

May be characterized by one or more of the following:

- Attempts a response, but may only paraphrase the prompt or be extremely brief.
- Exhibits no control over organization.
- Exhibits no control over sentence formation; word choice is inaccurate across the response.
- Characterized by misspellings, missing words, incorrect word order; errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics severely impede understanding across the response.

**Excellent - Student Response**

- 1 We all have favorite objects that we care about and would not want to give up.

Think of one object that is important or valuable to you. For example, it could be a book, a piece of clothing, a game, or any object you care about.

Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

One day in December I had saw a pool table in a J.C. Penney catalogue. I had begged and begged my mom for a pool table. I didn't know I was going to get it. Then my mom tricked me and said no you're not going to get it. I sat in my room quiet reading my book How to Play Pool. I had wanted this pool table so bad that we went to Toys R Us. I had saw the same pool table. It was cool. It turned into five different things, a pool table, a hockey ring, a shuffle board and ping pong and a bowling alley. We only had one more day until Christmas. I just could not stop thinking about it. My mom came upstairs. She cut on my lights and said, "Why aren't you asleep?" I said, "I can't go to bed." At last I have went to bed. I dreamed all night about that pool table. If I had got the pool table I would treat it like a king. Finally it was Christmas. I wake my sister and brother up. We went down stairs and I saw the pool table! I ran upstairs to give my mom a thank you card. I gave her the bracelet that she had wanted. We came up with \$200. When she saw it she screamed. She was happy and I was too. I went downstairs and played a game with my dad. I didn't think I could win. He played a lot of pool. Guess what I won! Then after he went upstairs I started to practice. That day we had alot of people to come over. When people came I asked them if they could play pool with me. That day I was on a winning streak. Sometimes I wonder if I will ever be a professional pool player.

Scorer Comments:

This "Excellent" response is quite accomplished writing for a fourth grader. In it, the student creates suspense, consistently provides details, and develops a story with dialogue and description. The student makes an error in the use of tense several times ("I had saw"), but otherwise the story shows good control of language and exhibits a variety of sentence structure. The student uses

imagery to make the story vivid: "I dreamed all night about that pool table. If I had got the pool table I would treat it like a king."

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Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

My favorite object is my pet animals and pets because they are cute, fun to play with and always are willing to clean off the sticky stuff on your dishes. I have two dogs, two goldfish, and a cat. The kind of cat I have is a calico cat his name is Bub. The kinds of dogs are a black lab named Buddy and a Springer spaniel named Spike. My goldfish's names are Goldie and Popel. They have been living for almost two years now. My cat is fifteen years old. And my dogs ages are seven and eight. My cat is lazy and makes to the dogs. My dogs are active and love to run around in the snow. Both my dogs act like they see people and think that they can eat people food. My cat loves milk when she sees you drinking milk she will meow at you so much that you go crazy. The reason why I love animals is because I love animals. My favorite animals are polar bears, dogs and horses.

Scorer Comments:

This "Excellent" response abounds with details about the student's pets. The student includes information about the pets' names, ages, and habits in an orderly way. Details like "both my dogs act like they are people and think that they can eat people food" help make the characterizations vivid. The student uses a variety of sentence structure and has few errors.

### Skillful - Student Response

- 1 We all have favorite objects that we care about and would not want to give up.

Think of one object that is important or valuable to you. For example, it could be a book, a piece of clothing, a game, or any object you care about.

Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

I have something I would never give up because a very special friend gave it to me. It is a silver dollar. How I got it was that he had a house on an island and we all went to go there on the weekend. I was really good so my friend's mom said she would get me something of my choice, but I couldn't decide what. On the way home I got sick. I couldn't go to school once I did get home. The day I got better I got some mail in the mail box. When I opened the envelope there in a case was a shiny silver dollar made of real silver. There was also a note. It said:

Dear Jason,  
keep this silver dollar inside the case for a very long time. Then when you really need some money sell it. It will be worth a lot of money.

So I kept the silver dollar ever since.

#### Scorer Comments:

In this "Skillful" response, the student describes in detail how he acquired the silver dollar, and uses description to emphasize the importance of the object: "when I opened the envelope there in a case was a shiny silver dollar made of real silver." The student artfully incorporates a letter to emphasize how important the object was to him. The plot is not as detailed or elaborated as in the "excellent" responses, nor is there the same variety of sentence structure and consistent use of descriptive language.

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Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

The most valuable object to me is my teddy bear. I had that every since I was five years old. Every day when I get some free time I go in my big room and start playing with her. It is so important to me because my great great grandma gave it to my mama then my mama passed it to me. I play with it almost every day. I carry it every where I go. But my mother would never let me bring it to school. Because she think I'm going to let some one hold it and drop it in the mude. I know it is just a teddy bear. I even take it a bath. I love that teddy bear with all my heart. I would never give me teddy bear up. I would never let it out of my sight. One day my sister was playing with my teddy bear. She was throwing it up and the air and catching it. Then she heard the phone ring she dropped my cute little teddy bear. She said I'm going outside. She played outside for a long time. She came back in the house at 6:00 o'clock. Her shoes was all muddy. She walked in her room traking muddy foot steps. My teddy bear was on the floor. I walked to her room I yelled out "NO!" My sister said what. I jumped over all that junk and reached for my teddy bear. I got their just in time. Me and my teddy bear lived happy ever after.

Scorer Comments:

This "Skillful" response does not have as good control of language as the "excellent" responses, but makes very clear why the object -- the "white teddy bear" -- is important to the student: "I love that teddy bear with all my heart." The essay concludes with a story in which the student just manages to save the white teddy bear from being stepped on. The student creates suspense and dramatic action: "I jumped over all that junk and reached for my teddy bear I got their just in time."

### Sufficient - Student Response

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Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

I have about seventeen trophies. There mostly wrestling because there's a lot of tournaments all around the U.S. Once I got second place in the toughest tournament in the world. In Tulsa, Oklahoma. I'm going there today. The trophy that I got there is my second biggest trophy. It was my second time going.

I have 5 baseball trophies. The biggest baseball trophy is the team trophy. I got to keep it because my dad was the head coach. We took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in our division. Photographers took our picture. (the whole team) that was in fastpitch. In tee ball we took 1<sup>st</sup> place for three years! But my first year we took 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our tee ball name was Sluggers.

#### Scorer Comments:

This response was rated "Sufficient" because it is organized around the subject of "trophies." It has brief digressions ("once I got second place in the toughest tournament in the world. In Tulsa, Oklahoma. I'm going there today") but otherwise stays focused on the trophies and how the student won them. These are good objects to select because each evokes the moment when it was won.



The student tends to jump a bit from trophy to trophy, and there are some errors, but on the whole the meaning is clear.

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I got a duck named Donald Duck. I don't want to give it away because I got it when I was a baby. And there is a rather reason why I don't want to give it away. Because I got it from my Grandma & Nanny. And they live in Florida. Which is far away from me. And Donald Duck reminds me of them. And I never see them in a long time. So that's why Donald Duck is my special object.

Scorer Comments:

This response, rated "Sufficient," provides information in a generally organized way. It gives some reasons why the object is so special to the writer: "because I got it from my Grandma & Nanny. And they live in Florida." There are some problems in spelling and sentence boundaries, but they do not interfere with the reader's ability to understand the essay.

#### Uneven - Student Response

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Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

My giga pet is what's like  
most is my baby T-Rex. It can  
walk back and froth. It play.  
It eats smashed potatoes. It  
goes to the vet and get a  
shot. It was a gift for Christmas.  
A lot of people loves them.  
My mom and dad gave it to me.  
We've had it since Christmas.

Scorer Comments:

In this "Uneven" response, the student clearly identifies the favorite object ("my giga pet...my baby T-Rex"). In this response, the student provides some information about the things that can be done with the giga pet: "It goes to the vet and get a shot." The problems with spelling and grammar, however, frequently make this response somewhat hard to understand: "It can walk back and froth. It play. It eats snashed popates." The order of the sentences in the second part of the essay is somewhat unclear, and the essay is somewhat undeveloped.

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Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

My favorite object is my dog, my  
dog name is max he is black  
rockwaller, he is playfull if you  
know him if you don't do not go  
near bark, growl, run you over, he will  
bite you, and he will bite on your  
shirt. Max will run with you  
and coming home he will scratch  
the door your opening it, as soon  
as you open come running out  
jump all over you and he would play  
with you. That's my story my  
most valuable object max.

Scorer Comments:

This "Uneven" response provides fairly extensive details about the student's favorite object, "my dog name is max he is black rockwaller." The student provides information about how the dog behaves, with a warning: "he is playfull if you know him if you don't do not go near bark, growl, run you over, he will bite you, and he will bite on your shirt." Some run-on sentences like the one above, as well as some problems with grammar, make parts of the essay somewhat difficult to understand.

**Insufficient - Student Response**

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Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

My faverit object is my Pog  
Card all never give it aw becous it  
myt by wett a lot som day in the  
fater and my Alom fine card and  
my Jeff gorden card tis at the  
thenge all never give way becows  
if Jeff gorden give 2 on wining  
the andy bec it will be alot of  
many in the fater. Nolan Ryins  
Cards ar all redy a lot becows  
hes all redy fater becows he  
got to old. Nolan Rin was a famis  
Pitcher for the Texas Rangers  
he was a famis Pitcher and  
he throw 165 pitchis and strike  
them out.

Scorer Comments:

In this "Insufficient" response, the student identifies a favorite object, "my pog card." Most of the response is difficult to understand because of the spelling and run-on sentences. The student provides some information about Nolan Ryan and Jeff Gordon, but in a rather disorganized fashion.

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I got a doll house for christmas  
and it is specl to me becouse  
the roof can come of and the door  
can open and it is so special  
and it is the

Scorer Comments:

This "Insufficient" response is very brief but does convey some information: "I got a doll house for christmas and it is spechel to me because the roof can come of...." But the response is a single run-on sentence, so was rated "Insufficient" for its lack of development and problems with language control.

#### Unsatisfactory - Student Response

- 1 We all have favorite objects that we care about and would not want to give up.

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Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

I lils me góme is foot ball i can  
a Deep run and make a man  
like to flaly in game a

Scorer Comments:

This response was rated "Unsatisfactory." The student identifies a favorite object (in this case an activity, the game of football). But the response is very undeveloped (a single run-on sentence) and the problems in the use of language make it hard to understand.

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Write about your favorite object. Be sure to describe the object and explain why it is valuable or important to you.

You can keep them for a  
favrit thing to keep put up  
so no one takes it from you.

Because they are my  
favrit thing to keep with  
me.

Scorer Comments:

In this "Unsatisfactory" response, the student provides some information about a favorite object but doesn't name it: "You can keep them for a favrit thing to keep put up so no one takes it from you." The response is very undeveloped and repetitive.

**Purpose for Writing:** *Informative Writing*

## **Purpose for Writing**

### ***Informative Writing***

Informative writing focuses primarily on the subject-matter element in communication. This type of writing is used to share knowledge and to convey messages, instructions, and ideas. Like all writing, informative writing may be filtered through the writer's impressions, understanding, and feelings. Used as a means of exploration, informative writing helps both the writer and the reader to learn new ideas and to reexamine old conclusions. Informative writing may also involve reporting on events or experiences, or analyzing concepts and relationships, including developing hypotheses and generalizations. Any of these types of informative writing can be based on the writer's personal knowledge and experience or on information newly presented to the writer that must be understood in order to complete a task. Usually, informative writing involves a mix of the familiar and the new, and both are clarified in the process of writing. Depending on the task, writing based on either personal experience or factual information may span the range of thinking skills from recall to analysis to evaluation.