

High School: Expository – “Pool Shark”

Topic: People receive gifts in their lives, some that are material or tangible and some that are not. For example, introducing someone to a friend or activity, doing someone a favor, or just having a natural talent or skill could be thought of as gifts. Think of something that was given you—or a natural talent you have—that you consider to be important and **explain** why.

SCORES AND COMMENTARY

Phrases in bold are taken from the *Official Writing Scoring Guide*. Phrases in italics are taken directly from the student writing.

Ideas/Content 3
Organization 3
Voice 4

Word Choice 3
Sentence Fluency 3
Conventions 3

Ideas and Content:

This paper scores a 3 in Ideas and Content. **The reader can easily understand the main ideas, although they are overly broad or simplistic.** This is a very simple paper and the details in it just don't give it enough content. **Supporting detail is often limited or overly general.** There are **difficulties when moving from general observations to specifics.** *We play everyday and im still the winner. My step dad and I always compete. Somtimes he wins and somtimes I win.*

- This paper is not a 4 in Ideas and Content because the topic is not explored or explained and not all details are relevant.
- This paper is not a 2 in Ideas and Content because the purpose and main idea do not require extensive inference by the reader.

Organization

This paper scores a 3 in Organization. The **beginning** (*I feel that my biggest talent is to play pool. Pool is an excellent sport. It is fun to play and even fun to watch.*) **and ending** (*I love to play pool and do really good at it. I hope to get much better. I want someday to play against some one really grait.*) **are undeveloped. The order or the relationships among ideas is occasionally unclear.** *I am not always in the mood. They call me a pool Shark. Placement of details may not always be effective.* *That's when your really good at pool.* (Used as a paragraph to support the last sentence in the prior paragraph, *They call me a pool shark.*)

- This paper is not a 4 in Organization because it does not have a developed beginning and conclusion, and the details do not always fit where placed.
- This paper is not a 2 in Organization because it does have an organizational structure.

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Voice

This paper scores a 4 in Voice. **A voice is present.** This is a very simple paper but we do get a sense of this writer. *I feel that My biggest talent is to play pool. They call me a pool shark.* There is a **commitment to the topic** and a **sense of “writing to be read.”**

- This paper is not a 5 in Voice because the voice is present but the writing is not expressive, engaging or sincere.
- This paper is not a 3 in Voice because the commitment to the topic is not inconsistent or inappropriate.

Word Choice

This paper scores a 3 in Word Choice. **Language lacks precision and variety. The writer does not employ a variety of words.** *It just came natural to me. Every since I first played Pool I could hit the balls in left and right. Sometimes he wins and sometimes I win.* These are good examples of **words that work, but rarely capture the reader’s interest.**

- This paper is not a 4 in Word Choice because there are not a variety of words used and they do not effectively convey the message.
- This paper is not a 2 in Word Choice because language is not monotonous or misused and it does not detract from the meaning or impact.

Sentence Fluency

This paper scores a 3 in Sentence Fluency. **The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid, and the writer falls into repetitive sentence patterns.** *He is always in the mood to play pool. I am not always in the mood. They call me a pool Shark. Thats when your really good at pool. Occasional awkward constructions force the reader to slow down. They did not know how only playing it for a couple of days could beat Some one that has been playing for years.*

- This paper is not a 4 in Sentence Fluency because the writing does not have a natural sound, and sentence patterns are not somewhat varied.
- This paper is not a 2 in Sentence Fluency because the writing is not choppy or rambling.

Conventions

This paper scores a 3 in Conventions. **Errors begin to impede readability.** There are **errors in grammar and usage that do not block meaning but do distract the reader.** *Every since I first played; We play everyday and im still the winner; I want Someday to play against some one really grait; That’s when your really good at pool.*

- This paper is not a 4 in Conventions because it does not demonstrate control of standard writing conventions. There is a significant, not a moderate need for editing.

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- This paper is not a 2 in Conventions because there is not a substantial need for editing and there is limited control, not little control.