

## High School: Expository – “Riding Lessons”

**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 4**  
**Organization 4**  
**Voice 4**

**Word Choice 4**  
**Sentence Fluency 4**  
**Conventions 4**

#### Ideas and Content:

This paper scores a 4 in Ideas and Content. This is a solid paper. **The writing is clear and focused.** There is a **clear main idea**, and it has **supporting details that are relevant**, although they are **overly general or limited in places**. For example, although the writer tells us that his or her first thoughts upon arrival at the farm were about the horses, we don't get any specifics, only that the horses are numerous and pretty.

- This paper is not a 5 in Ideas and Content because there are not enough supporting details that are relevant and carefully selected.
- This paper is not a 3 in Ideas and Content because support is more than attempted and the paper stays on topic throughout.

#### Organization

This paper scores a 4 in Organization. **Organization is clear and coherent.** This paper has a **body that is easy to follow with details that fit where placed.** **Clear sequencing** makes the paper easy to follow. *That Saturday my alarm sounded at 9:00 am, The farm was about a 20 min. drive from our home, We were greeted by a blond haired lady named Mary-Anne, etc.*

- This paper is not a 5 in Organization because the organization works but it does not enhance the central ideas. The writing does not demonstrate smooth, effective transitions among all elements.
- This paper is not a 3 in Organization because the overall structure is not skeletal or inconsistent. There is a developed beginning, body, and conclusion.

#### Voice

This paper scores a 4 in Voice. **The writer seems committed to the topic.** There is a **glimpse of the writer behind the words and we feel a sense of interaction in places.** *Years of begging finally paid off! In most cases waking up before 10:30 am on a weekend would be very upsetting to me.*

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- This paper is not a 5 in Voice because the topic has not come to life and does not demonstrate a strong sense of audience.
- This paper is not a 3 in Voice because awareness of the reader is not unclear. This paper has a voice that is present and consistent.

### Word Choice

This paper scores a 4 in Word Choice. **Words effectively convey the intended message.** The words are **functional and appropriate to audience and purpose.** *It was a beautiful place. It had lots of land where the horses could graze, a large barn, and an indoor riding arena.*

- This paper is not a 5 in Word Choice because the writer does not employ a broad range of words that have been carefully chosen or thoughtfully placed.
- This paper is not a 3 in Word Choice because the words are not generic, mundane or general. The words work here; they are effective.

### Sentence Fluency

This paper scores a 4 in Sentence Fluency. The writing demonstrates **a natural sound; the reader can move easily through the paper, although it lacks a certain rhythm and grace.** *In most cases waking up before 10:30 am on a weekend would be very upsetting to me. But that day it was different, I jumped out of bed with no hesitation.*

- This paper is not a 5 in Sentence Fluency because there is not enough variation in sentence structure, length and beginnings that add interest to the text.
- This paper is not a 3 in Sentence Fluency because the text is not too short and the writing is not mechanical but rather fluid.

### Conventions

This paper scores a 4 in Conventions. **The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions. Significant errors do not occur frequently. Minor errors, while perhaps noticeable, do not impede readability.** There are a few minor spelling errors: *finaly, chesnut, lead* (led), etc. There are a few errors in internal punctuation. *But that day it was different, I jumped out of bed with no hesitation.* There is a **moderate need for editing** in this paper.

- This paper is not a 5 in Conventions because it does not demonstrate strong control; there is not a wide range used to show this.
- This paper is not a 3 in Conventions because this paper has few errors and does not have a significant need for editing.