

High School: Expository – “New York City”

Topic: Some people think, “There is no place like home,” while others are more interested in moving to a new and different environment. **Explain** what features are most important to you in a community where you would like to live, whether it is your current hometown or some other place.

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 2
Organization 1
Voice 2

Word Choice 1
Sentence Fluency 1
Conventions 1

Ideas and Content:

This paper scores a 2 in Ideas and Content. **Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal.** There is an **extensive repetition of detail** such as *New yaer* (New York) and *home*. Don't let spelling and other convention errors distract from the main idea of this story, which is that the writer would like to live in New York City for a variety of reasons.

- This paper is not a 3 in Ideas and Content because the reader cannot easily understand the main idea. You have to read slowly and several times to understand the ideas and content of this paper.
- This paper is not a 1 in Ideas and Content because it does not lack a central idea or purpose. The words and conventions are difficult, but not the ideas.

Organization

This paper scores a 1 in Organization. **The writing lacks coherence; organization seems haphazard and disjointed. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused.** This paper demonstrates a **lack of organization which ultimately obscures or distorts the main point.**

- This paper is not a 2 in Organization because there are no organizational devices used other than paragraphing. There are no transitions, no body, and no conclusion.

Voice

This paper scores a 2 in Voice. **There is no evidence that the writer has chosen a suitable voice.** The **voice is flat, lifeless,** and even **mechanical.** **There is little sense of involvement or commitment.**

- This paper is not a 3 in Voice because a sense of the writer does not emerge at times. The text is more than too short; it is confusing.

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- This paper is not a 1 in Voice because there is a hint of the writer and a tiny sense of involvement. Most of us can picture this writer.

Word Choice

This paper scores a 1 in Word Choice. **The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary and is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured.** It may have taken you several readings to figure out it was about a nice place to live called New York City. Many words were **just plain wrong.**

- This paper is not a 2 in Word Choice because words are so unclear they cannot be misused or monotonous. They did more than detract from the meaning.

Sentence Fluency

This paper scores a 1 in Sentence Fluency. **The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud.** There is **confusing word order that is often jarring and irregular. Sentences are disjointed, confusing, and rambling.** For example, *I wish to live a nice city the name on the is New York. Because the city there are more people and that it is a nice place to live.* (I wish to live a nice city the name on the is New York. Because the city there are more people and that it is a nice place to live.)

- This paper is not a 2 in Sentence Fluency because all of the text is difficult to follow, not just significant portions.

Conventions

This paper scores a 1 in Conventions. There is an **extensive need for editing. In fact, the severity and frequency of errors are so overwhelming that the reader finds it difficult to focus on the message and must reread for meaning.**

- This paper is not a 2 in Conventions because it demonstrates no control of standard writing conventions, not little control.