



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

A Rough Road Ahead

Biking to Yosemite



Clarity and Focus

There is no focused or effective central idea that addresses the demands of the prompt. The writing does not appropriately engage the audience or clearly explain how the setting of the story affects the cyclist ("The biker's name is Joe and Joe ran out of water not to for into his journey thanks to the heat of the setting he was in").



Development

While the essay references a detail from the source ("He talks about drinking his water bottle alot because he was in the California desert in June"), it does not fully connect the detail to the essay's purpose. Some details are present ("A desert is a setting that would be hard on any cyclist"), but they are vague and do not sufficiently develop the writer's main idea.



Organization

There is an attempt at an introduction ("In the cyclists journey to Yosemite, several factors stop him from reaching it"), but a fully-formed central idea about the setting is not present. There are no transitions, creating an essay that jumps from one idea to the next. The concluding statement ("that is why it effected Joe so much") would benefit from additional details that clearly support the ideas presented.



Language and Style

The essay is very short and uses little variety in sentence structure. The language is general, offering vague and generic statements about the source ("A desert is a setting that would be hard on any cyclist"). The essay contains several errors that interfere with the clarity of the essay ("then" vs. than; "not to for into his journey;" "effected" vs. affected).



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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In the cyclist's journey to Yosemite, several factors stop him from reaching it. The first is that the older guys that he talked to didn't give him the truth. It was probably their fault that he was lost. He had a much harder and longer ride than he first realized. The biker's name is Joe and Joe ran out of water not too far into his journey thanks to the heat of the setting he was in because he talks about drinking his water bottle a lot because he was in the California desert in June. A desert is a setting that would be hard on any cyclist and that is why it affected Joe so much.



Notes
