



Developing | Exemplar Essay

A Rough Road Ahead

A Long Bike Ride



Clarity and Focus)

The essay contains a clear central idea ("In this story, I read about how a man had to cycle through difficult heat, terrain, and wildlife"), but it neither completely fulfills the writing purpose nor addresses the demands of the prompt (no mention of the terrain or wildlife in later paragraphs). This essay would benefit from incorporating details that involve features of the setting beyond temperature.



Development

The essay contains some quoted evidence that helps the audience understand the writing ("One of the troubles that caused him to stop was the excruciating heat. Joe is biking 'through the high desert of california in June"). However, some details do not relate directly to the thesis ("But finally he found a bait shop in which in big letter was saying 'GARY AND WILBER'S FISH CAMP- IF YOU WANT BAIT FOR THE BIG ONES, WE'RE YOUR BEST BET!!!!!!'").



Organization

The essay uses an organizational structure with transitions that show relationships between and among ideas ("but finally," "also," and "lastly"). The introductory statement offers a central claim, but the conclusion does not provide an adequate, meaningful resolution ("In conclusion he should have taken a different way to get there").



Language and Style

The writing engages the audience playfully ("Joe Kurmaskie had already mapped out where he was going to go before he talked to 'Old-timers' but he thought that they knew what they were talking about"). Varied sentence structure and some precise language are used ("excruciating"), but the essay misses a few chances to add details that would further develop the topic ("This shows that the author felt like giving up"). The use of the first person indicates some slight informality throughout the essay ("I read" and "I think").



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.

A Rough Road Ahead



A Long Bike Ride

In this story, I read about how a man had to cycle through difficult heat, terrain, and wildlife. I believe that in the story there were many examples given to tell how these things affected him.

Joe Kurmaskie had already mapped out where he was going to go before he talked to "Old-timers" but he thought that they knew what they were talking about. He decided he would follow the trail they had made for them, assuming that they knew the area a lot better than him. By the time he figured out the trail was abandoned, it was already too late.

I think one of the troubles that caused him to stop was the excruciating heat. Joe is biking "through the high desert of California in June." So naturally it was dry and hot. Another thing that affected the author was that he felt like giving up because the terrain was too harsh. For instance in the text, "it didn't really matter. I was going to die and the birds will pick me clean, leaving only some expensive outdoor gear." This shows that the author felt like giving up.

But finally he found a bait shop in which in big letter was saying "GARY AND WILBER'S FISH CAMP- IF YOU WANT BAIT FOR THE BIG ONES, WE'RE YOUR BEST BET!!!!!" The cyclist felt like he was saved. In conclusion he should have taken a different way to get there. Also he should have gotten more information from the guy sitting under his shade and on his porch. Lastly he should have just taken his time getting there so there wouldn't be as much trouble as there was. Another is that he could have gotten a little more water to go with him on his journey, so he'd be ready for the setting of the bike ride.