



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Expect the Unexpected

Surprise Quiz



Plot and Ideas

An exposition is attempted (“A time when something unexpected happened was at school”), but it does not support the establishment of the plot or incorporate adequate description to situate the conflict or central idea (“It happened in English class”). The plot and ideas do not fulfill the purpose or address the demands of the task.



Development and Elaboration

The story tries to describe a setting, but it is not clear or detailed (“English class”). The narrative lacks dialogue, and the descriptions of the narrator and characters are incomplete and do not enhance the storyline (“When I got to class my teacher said we had a quiz”).



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative does not contain a sequence of events that establishes a beginning, middle, and end. Some transitions are present (“I went home that night” and “the next day”), but a clear sense of time and pacing are missing. A resolution is attempted (“When we got the quiz back I got a B and was surprised because I didn’t expect it”), but it does not offer closure to the course of events.



Language and Style

Descriptive words, sensory language, and figurative language are missing and do not create imagery in this narrative. Sentence structure is not varied, and some errors are present (“I new some things would be on there”). The writing is somewhat informal (“I felt soooo nervous”) and is not engaging, unable to build clear voices of the characters and narrator.



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.

Expect the Unexpected

Surprise Quiz

A time when something unexpected happened was at school. It happened in English class. When I got to class my teacher said we had a quiz. I was so nervous because I had been gone the day before and I new some things would be on there. Taking the quiz I felt soooo nervous. I went home that night knowing that I didn't do well and I was mad at myself. When we got the quiz back I got a B and was surprised because I didn't expect it.



Notes
