



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Home: The Blueprints of our Lives

Family and Culture



Clarity and Focus

The central idea is not completely clear since the writer has not identified a specific mood. In the introduction, the writer does attempt to give background information.



Development

Evidence is vague and minimal (immigrated from Cuba to America, tried to make the house as Cuban as possible). Additionally, the evidence is not connected clearly to a mood, as required by the prompt. A clear explanation of how this evidence relates to an identified mood would move this essay to a 2.



Organization

The single paragraph with simplistic introductory and concluding sentences is lacking an adequate organizational structure. With the exception of "also," there are no transitions to show the relationships between and among ideas.



Language and Style

Sentences are all similar in length and style with few specific word choices. The essay relies on words that are not specific or descriptive ("pretty good," "alot," "nice").



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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Notes

Home is by Narciso Rodriguez. The mood the author gave was pretty good because he was talking about his life. Narciso's parents immigrated from Cuba to America. I think the parents try to make the house as Cuban as can be. The author's memories meant a lot to him. I also think the author was happy because he has a nice family that loves him a lot. He was happy because he's now in America but still around Cuban culture. His parents put him in America I think because they wanted to start a family. That is why I think that this is the mood of the author in this memoir.