

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Personal Writing (Unit 1, pages 28–31)

Assignment: For a publication of personal reflections, write a two-paragraph description about an experience you have shared with someone else.

Learning to Love the Farm

When Tanya and I went with her grandparents to their farm I had no idea we would be gone for a whole week! But as soon as we got there it started to snow, and the pass over the mountains was closed. It didn't stop snowing for four days. I'd only been friends with Tanya for a few months, ever since she moved in down the street. When I first met her I thought she was kind of a country girl. She was really quiet, for one thing, and always wore boys jeans. But my parents thought we should be friends. I've never liked country things, and I was nervous about being stuck at the farm for so long, but I had a great time!

I got eggs from the hen house and gathered wood for the wood stove. Tanya showed me how to tell a good egg from a rotten one and how to snap a twig to see if it was dry. I even learned how to feed hay and apples to the horses. I was scared, but Tanya was really good with animals. She showed me how to take the apple in my hand and press it right up to their lips. When her horse, Sheba, nibbled on the apple it tickled, but I didn't back down. When the roads were cleared and we finally got back to school, everybody wanted to know where we'd been for so long. We told them about our adventure and they thought it sounded pretty cool. We're already making plans to go back to the farm for summer vacation.

Summary: *This piece clearly portrays a shared experience and the writer's feelings about it. The well-organized details make the experience vivid, and the fact that the writer shows how her feelings changed over time gives a feeling of completeness to the narrative.*

This piece might receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 93 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—32 points for Focus/Organization, 32 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 29 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opens with a clear, attention-getting sentence

Expresses the author's feelings and tells how those feelings changed

Uses details to vividly illustrate the experience

Closes with a strong statement that shows how the writer's feelings have changed