

Average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Descriptive Writing (Unit 3, pages 138–141)

Assignment: Write a one-page magazine article describing people, places, and things associated with your favorite hobby.

Dancing with Keisha

I like my African dance class because it's the one time each week when I get to really express myself. It's not like other dance classes I've taken. We dance in groups. With African dance you spend a lot of time leaning forward which really hurts my legs. It doesn't seem to bug Keisha. She's the teacher. She's really good.

When you dance you use your hands in front of you or over your head. Sometimes the movements tell a story. A lot of dances are from old ceremonies that have been passed on through history. Keisha likes us yelling and stuff. I don't worry about looking stupid in this class.

There's both boys and girls in the class even though a lot of boys don't like dance classes. But with this if you're good, you can learn to do flips and splits and spin on your head.

The dance studio has really high wood ceilings and floors. There are windows around the room and sometimes we can open them. On a really nice day we get to go outside. You have to be careful outside not to step on something, though.

I like to dance because I have a lot of energy. But it's really hard, every time I get really tired and sweaty. When we're waiting for our turn to go across the floor, we shout and cheer for the other groups. I like that because it's like sports but it's more fun.

Summary: This article tells what the author likes about her hobby but uses vague language to describe the hobby and awkward transitions between ideas. Adding more specific details, fully developing the ideas in each paragraph, and linking ideas with clear transitions would make the piece more effective.

This piece might receive a 2 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 76 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—25 points for Focus/Organization, 28 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 23 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opening sentence is engaging, but the paragraph contains too many ideas and lacks sufficient detail.

Lack of effective transitions makes writing sound choppy.

Includes some specific verbs that create vivid images

Uses consistent order for spatial description, but details are vague

Conclusion includes sensory details but ends abruptly.