

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Narrative Writing (Unit 4, pages 184–187)

Assignment: To make the past come alive in a historical narrative, write a four- to five-paragraph story about one of your ancestors or someone else whose life interests you.

Equal Rights for all Women

“Ladies! It’s time to take to the streets!” cried Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It was 1912, in New York City. Thousands of women had gathered on a bright spring day at the foot of Fifth Avenue, in Washington Square Park. When she heard the call to begin, Great-grandma Wilma held up her hand-made sign. “Equal Rights for All Women!” it said. The letters on her sign were big and black.

She straightened her straw hat, pushed up her small wire spectacles, and moved forward with the crowd. The women filled the street. Some were dressed in long skirts that covered their ankles. But most women were wearing bloomers, the loose fitting pants that many people thought were scandalous. The women marched side by side—lawyers, doctors, teachers, seamstresses, factory workers, and homemakers.

Great-grandma Wilma had been a teacher but was fired from her job when she got pregnant with her first child. She’d had seven children since then, but two had died when they were babies. Now, the youngest was five years old. She stood with the rest of the family on the curb, watching as the parade passed by.

“Hello, my dears!” Wilma called out cheerfully as she passed them.

The children grinned and waved back. Wilma’s husband, Great-grandpa Henry, just stood quietly at the edge of the street.

Some people along the sidewalk made fun of the women. “Get back to the kitchen!” hollered one man in the crowd. “When women vote, I’ll eat my hat,” said another. A group of wealthy ladies stared from their carriage and shook their heads in disdain. Great-grandma Wilma ignored them all and kept on marching proudly up the street, convinced that soon women would get the right to vote.

Summary: *This narrative vividly brings to life the story of an early-20th century suffragist. Accurate historical details and realistic dialogue add to the story’s engaging, authentic tone.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 100 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opens with attention-getting dialogue

Specific details introduce the setting and main character.

Presents relevant historical details

Uses effective transitions and provides relevant background information

Lively, appropriate dialogue develops the characters and conflict.

Concluding sentence provides an effective resolution for the narrative.