

# Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name ..... Class ..... Date .....

## Above-average Writing Model

### Writing Process in Action: Descriptive Writing (Unit 3, pages 152–155)

**Assignment:** Write a one- to two-page description of a character and setting that establishes a strong personality, mood, and conflict for a television movie.

#### Subway Madness

The metal subway door scrapes open. Diandra sees a towering man jump into the subway car. With a mean look, he scans the already-terrified passengers' faces. Finally, his glare settles on Diandra. "Yeah, you'll do," he says. Poking her in the back, he shoves her out the door in front of him.

The scene just described would come about halfway through my proposed television movie. Called "Subway Madness," the movie is about the hijacking of a New York City subway train by a desperate escaped criminal named Randall Ratchett.

The main character is a sixteen-year-old girl named Diandra. As the movie opens, Diandra huddles in a back seat of a subway car. Dressed in denim cut-offs and a plain white T-shirt, she looks like an ordinary teenager. Her head is bent over a book of poems by Emily Dickinson. The tattered cover shows how much she loves this book. Now and then, Diandra twirls a lock of her curly, black hair in her finger, something she does when she's engrossed in a good book.

Suddenly, Diandra hears the terrifying announcement that the subway has been hijacked. The train begins rushing out of control. As it tears around corners, Diandra hears the screeching of metal scraping against metal. An empty baby stroller zooms past Diandra down the aisle. A man in a business suit is thrown to the floor. His black glasses fly off and are crushed under the stumbling feet of another passenger. Diandra cuts her lip when she is thrown against the hard plastic of the seat in front of her. Her tongue tastes blood.

Not much later, the hijacker takes Diandra hostage. He pushes her ahead of him to walk through the dark underground tunnels of the New York City subway. Its pitch black except for the dim light from Ratchett's flashlight. The light bounces creepily off the walls. It casts an eerie yellowish glow. Diandra sees the huddled bodies of rats scurrying along the subway wall. The smells of grime and dirt make her nauseous. Shivering, she stops and coughs, but Ratchett pokes her with his gun. "Just keep moving" he says roughly.

After several more hours of the police tracking the hijacker and Diandra, she manages to fool Ratchett and escape. At the end of the film, she walks out into the dazzling sunshine. The hot bright streets of a New York summer day never looked or felt so good to her.

**Summary:** This description vividly presents a premise for an action movie. The use of concrete language and sensory details creates a clear setting, character, mood, and conflict.

This piece might receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 96 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 26 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

*Opening grabs reader's interest and uses dialogue to reveal character.*

*Synopsis clearly establishes the central conflict and characters.*

*Uses concrete language to present main character*

*Sensory details make the scene vivid.*

*Provides adequate transitions, details, and dialogue to develop the conflict*

*Effectively summarizes idea and leaves reader wanting more*