

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

## Below-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 movie has to be in New York City. That's exactly where I imagine it. It takes place on the subway there which I rode once. In this movie, though, a guy highjacks the train. He just escaped from prison a couple days earlier. He was in prison for murder. No one on the train knows this part though until the police find out later. When he highjacks the subway there is a lot of trouble on the train. People fall down on the floor. There is lots of screaming and crying.

One girl ends up being the hero. Her name is Diandra. She is sixteen-years-old. She was riding the train when it was highjacked. So anyway she's the one who the highjacker takes for his hostage. The train is crowded but he picks her to be the one. She has to walk with him down the subway tracks. It's pitch black there. He has a flashlight but it's still very, very dark. There are even rats. A lot of scary things happen after he takes her hostage and everyone will wonder what's going to happen next.

But at the end of the movie Diandra will escape. First she gets the guy's weapons away. So it has a happy ending! This would make a very good suspense movie and I don't think there's been one like it already.

**Summary:** *This description focuses on the characters, conflict, and setting for a movie, but the writing is choppy and disorganized, the opening lacks energy, and the conflict is vaguely described. The piece could be improved by revising it to include more sensory details to support the general statements and to create a specific scene. Also, the piece could be improved by following a clearer organizational strategy, by eliminating the writer's opinion and personal experiences, and by correcting errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.*

*This piece might receive a 1 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 65 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—25 points for Focus/Organization, 22 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 18 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.*

*Opening establishes conflict and setting but includes irrelevant information and is poorly organized.*

*Includes some specific details, but much of the description is vague and repetitive*

*First-person point of view and opinions distract from the description.*