

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Narrative Writing (Unit 4, pages 194–197)

Assignment: For an essay contest judged by high school juniors, write a two-page narrative about a person you find astonishing and inspiring.

A Test of Courage

The live grenade sizzled through the air, then landed just a few feet away from Chuck. Acting by instinct, Chuck lunged for the grenade and heaved it back towards the Nazi line. His heroic act saved the lives of his comrades, but it extracted from Chuck an enormous toll: his hands.

After a long stay in the army hospital, my great-uncle Chuck was discharged with honors. Home was Sioux City, Iowa, but Chuck lingered in San Francisco, where his plane had landed. He spent hours walking the steep streets, barely noticing the beauty of the surrounding California hills. Instead, he thought of his fiancée Catherine who was waiting for him in Sioux City. They had become engaged just before he left for the war in Europe. She was a petite, beautiful Irish girl, and he was very much in love with her. But how could he face her with just a stub for his left hand and a hook for his right hand? He couldn't even bring himself to call her. Picking up the live grenade at times seemed easier than picking up the phone and calling Catherine.

But at last Chuck summoned the courage and called. "When are you coming home, Chuck?" Catherine asked. "You and I have some marrying to do!"

When Chuck went home to marry his bride, he didn't have an established career. He did have a dream, however, that he'd formed during his long hospital stay. Chuck wanted to be a radiologist. He had a brilliant scientific mind and a passion for medicine. In radiology, he could use these strengths to excel and his physical handicap would not hold him back.

Supported by the love of a devoted wife and his determination to succeed, Chuck went to college and medical school. Catherine typed all of his papers. During medical school, their first son was born. Eventually, they had six more children.

His children loved him and looked up to him—just like his patients did. Just like I did. At church, Chuck would usually be holding one of the children. If you looked, you could see the hook where once his right hand had been. But usually, you didn't notice. I think it's because Uncle Chuck didn't notice it himself. He was so busy doing the things that he *could* do, that he never thought about what he *couldn't* do. Of course, he had my Aunt Catherine to help him along. The devotion they showed to each other would be inspirational even if Uncle Chuck wasn't a wounded war hero who had gone on to accomplish so much more. He had the courage to live a full, happy life.

Realistic action brings the character to life.

Clearly indicates the significance of the individual

Chronological ordering of events provides good narrative organization.

Parallel structure emphasizes a comparison that reveals the subject's character

Good use of dialogue to make people and events real

Covers a broad span of time to show the extent of the person's achievements

Emphasizes subject's inspirational qualities

Good use of physical description

Summary: *This narrative is a sensitive, well-developed portrayal of an inspirational person.*

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.