

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

## Below-average Writing Model

### Writing Process in Action: Persuasive Writing (Unit 6, pages 306–309)

**Assignment:** Prepare a one- to two-page speech persuading ninth graders to take a particular course of action in order to avoid a common pitfall of high school.

#### Orange Neon Socks

Don't let anybody tell you what to wear in high school. Just wear what you feel like. Even if you want to wear orange neon socks. Some clothes are very expensive. Believe me, I know. I've gone broke lots of time trying to keep up with the what's dope. Another reason is that you let somebody else make up your mind for you. You should make up your own mind. You should decide what kind of clothes you want to buy and get those. Don't follow what people are calling cool. Don't follow peer pressure with drugs, drinking, curfew. They aren't really your friends anyway if they act like that.

Lastly, you will have more fun if you get your own style. It's fun to pick out things you like and get a personal style. You don't get in trouble from drinking and you won't need to worry about getting busted or nothing, just be you. Lots more fun than letting ads and commercials or peer pressure tell you what to do. I found this out by getting a pair of orange neon socks. My friends thought I was crazy but I liked those socks. It was so much fun wearing them that I stopped worrying about what other people thought.

**Summary:** *Although this speech attempts to persuade ninth graders to take a course of action, it lacks a clear thesis and its arguments are underdeveloped. The speech could be improved by opening with a strong thesis statement and by presenting each argument related to the thesis in a separate paragraph. In addition, each argument should be developed with at least one specific fact, example, or anecdote.*

*This speech would probably receive a 1 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 69 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—25 points for Focus/Organization, 22 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 22 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.*

*No clear opening*

*Attempts to present arguments but lacks supporting details*

*Lacks an organized structure; introduces unrelated arguments*

*Shows an awareness of audience but contains sentence fragments and run-ons*