

Name Class Date

Below-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Descriptive Writing (Unit 3, pages 148–151)

Assignment: For a photography exhibition catalog, write a vivid one- to two-page description of a scenic photograph and convey its emotional impact.

Invisible Border

My favorite photo at the at the local museum is called, Invisible Border. This photo makes me feel happy to be alive.

In the front there is this wonderful sea. Mostly though it is of a sky which is filled with clouds but not exactly depressing. A town is in the middle of the photo. To me the photograph is like a painting. The sea looks like colors spread by a paintbrush over the ground. Blue, brown, yellow, white, and other colors. It is amazing that all these colors can be picked out of an ocean in a photo like this of mostly just water and the sky. At the bottom is what looks like a bunch of cords and poles. This may be part of a boat. You first notice the town though, because it makes the darkest shape in the photograph. It looks more like a shadow instead of a town, because its more just the shape of a small town seen from a distance not all the details up close. There is something shaped like a tower above the rest of the roofs where the windows of some houses glow a little bit though. The sky is my favorite part. It is amazing. A kind of joyfull sky.

Summary: *This description lacks an effective organizational strategy. The opening does not engage the reader, the ending is abrupt, and the writing throughout is weakened by poor grammar and vague language. Also, the writer's use of first-person point of view does not suit the purpose of the assignment. The piece could be improved by using more specific, concise language to create a clear, coherent description and by following a consistent organizing strategy—either spatial order or order of importance—in the third-person point of view.*

This piece might receive a 1 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 64 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—21 points for Focus/Organization, 23 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 20 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opening presents topic but includes punctuation errors and an inappropriate point of view.

Includes a simile, but ideas are not effectively organized; punctuation and grammatical errors make description confusing

Language is repetitive and vague.