

6+1 Trait Writing Practice Scoring Sets

Paper Title: Rainy Day
Grade: Early Elementary (1-3)

Rainy Day:

A rainy Day. I say it s fun when you think of same: games to play. Like I play Hands Down and I play girl talk. Whith my sister. I play Hands Down whith my family it s fun to play Hands Down. When it s a raiy Day. A rainy Day. Do not have to be boring. It can be fun. you can play Games and if you can play hide in sink. That s fun to play on rainy Days. Games like Hands Down and talk. Are games that you can play on a riany Day. Rainy days are so fun sametimes rainy are not fun when it s a rainy Day. I play games. Games are not boring. Games are fun to play on a rainy Days.

Scores:

	Ideas	Organization	Voice	Word Choice	Fluency	Conventions
Reader 1	3	2	2	2	2	1
Reader 2	2	2	2	2	1	1

Comment 1: Editing the extremely poor conventions in this pieces does not significantly help the readability of the sentences. They lack rhythm and natural phrasing. They bear no connection with one another, but are instead a random collection of starts repeating the same kernel of ideas.

Comment 2: The repetitive quality of words and ideas detract from the writer s voice. Low fluency and convention skills make it difficult to read. The writing is scattered and lacks cohesiveness.

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Paper Title: Color Crayon
Grade: Late Elementary (4-5)

Color Crayon:

I am a color crayon no one would use me I was an ugly green They would use pretty pink and blue instead I fell out of Stacys desk that night and in the morning somebody stepped on me and smeared me all over the Floor and then the teacher saw it and Sandy got in trouble there was only have left of me so she trew me in the garbag well it was kind of fun cause there was a brown crayon right then we fell in love so three days later I was Mrs Brown

he gave me a life saver for a wedding ring I have him one too then a week later we had a little baby Girl we named her Stacy Then that night the ganetur came to take the garbag can out what a relif cause people were spitting gum out and about got on us then when he was going to pick it up we fell out and we lived in the corner of a desk for several years we still do and the brown family lived happily ever after. The end.

Scores:

	Ideas	Organization	Voice	Word Choice	Fluency	Conventions
Reader 1	5	4	5	4	3	2
Reader 2	5	4	5	4	3	1

Comment 1: Charm is written all over this piece. The writer s confident control and underlying humor lift the ugly green crayon from the depths of despair to the heights of a real life in a garbage can what could be more imaginative? The student is wise to choose a subject he or she can manage, resisting the usual temptation in the imaginative mode to create an array of digitalized characters without a clue of what to do with them!
 Note: Beware of conventions bias!

Comment 2: Here is a great example of extremes in the traits, with high ideas and low conventions. This student is able to carry the imaginative idea of the color crayon through the entire paper quite successfully, but without a single form of punctuation!

Paper Title: My Special Friend
Grade: Middle School (6-8)

My Special Friend:

I am going to write about my best friend Meghan. Just last weekend Meghan came and spent the night for my birthday. Since Meghan lives in Issaquau we had to meet each other halfway. We hadn't seen each other in two years so it took us a while to get reacquainted. After that we went and rented some movies.

Then we went to the mall and tried on the weirdest clothes we could find. We stayed there for two hours. Later we went to the pet store and looked at the bunny I wanted for my birthday, but my mom said no because of my brother's allergies. Then we got some money and went to the store to get candy and Jolt (pop) to keep us awake that night.

The candy and Jolt sure did help, we were up until 2:30 in the morning. Then Meghan said, The way we were acting it's like we were never apart. I agreed.

Then my mom came in and said, You'll have plenty of time to horse around tomorrow, go to sleep. So we went to sleep and didn't talk anymore that night. The next day it was time to say good-bye, I was sad. Now every month Meghan is going to come and see me, or the other way around. Meghan is my Best Friend and nothing and nobody will change that. EVER.

Scores:

	Ideas	Organization	Voice	Word Choice	Fluency	Conventions
Reader 1	3	3	4-	3	3	3
Reader 2	4	3	3	3	3	4-

Comment 1: The writer's sincerity and occasional insight account for the 4 in voice. (Meghan is my Best Friend and nothing and nobody will change that. EVER.) Some interesting details are sprinkled in the text, but for the most part, the paper is a fairly standard accounting of the overnight birthday party. The then we sentence beginnings give the reader the feeling of a stuck record and undermine the build-up necessary to bring out the more valid theme of rekindling friendship with Meghan.

Comment 2: Birthday parties are a popular topic for sixth graders to write about, but they often fail to provide interesting, unusual details. This paper rises above the general birthday party theme by having the two girls see each other again after two years. There is enough development and insight about the situation to raise the ideas score to a 4 for this reader, but the lack of being fully engaged and aware of the audience keeps the voice score at a 3.

Paper Title: My Life, The Experiment
Grade: High School (9-12)

My Life, The Experiment:

*****The first born son, a proud family position in nations around the world. Heirs of the family profession and fortune, these children have a position of potential wealth and power. Parents in some countries have even been known to murder their own first born infants if they are not male. I just happen to be the first born son in my family. I could be powerful, wealthy, have a decent hair cut, but wait, there's on catch. I live in America, the land of opportunity, where a household's first born son serves an entirely different purpose. This purpose is what I like to refer to as a family's Official Child-Raising Test Dummy, or OCRTD for short. As a child-raising test dummy, it is my sole responsibility in life to boldly venture forth into the world as an experimental guinea pig for my parent's teaching skills. In short, an OCRTD serves as a child-raising practice run. If your parents fail in raising you, they will know that they will have to do a better job in bringing up your younger siblings. This means that I function somewhat like an oversized carbon-based pincussion of learning (sounds fun huh?). However bizzar it may sound, this job is an important part of today's family environment (however dysfunctional it may be).

*****As an Official Child-Raising Test Dummy, my main function is to ensure that my younger sibling, in this case K_____, my little sister (actually 14 years old isn't really that little), is raised to be a better person than me. This task is usually accomplished by letting my parents experiment with different punishments and learning styles on me before trying them on my sister. In short, my parents enjoy messing with my mind. An example of this took place two years ago when I obviously by some horrific mistake by the school, recieved a grade that was a little on the low side (OK, it was an F). My mother decided she had to ground me for the entire summer, depriving me of television, video games, and all of the other household necessities of today's youth. After the summer, when I was nearly dying of boredom, my mother decided that she had been a little harsh. Because of this, my sister will never be subject to the torture that I was put through. This experimental aspect of being an official child-raising test dummy is definately one of the position's cons.

*****Another negative aspect of my family position is what I like to refer to as the responsibility factor. As the oldest child in my household, I am obliged to take on responsibility for nearly every action of my younger sibling. To explain this better, I will now give an example. If I, as the OCRTD of the family, am home alone with my angelic little sister, I become responsible for anything that she may decide to destroy. When my sister does something fun such as writing on the carpet with a bright red marker (she's 14 physically, but not mentally), I get the blame because I am older and therefore more responsible. I should have been watching her better. For this reason, having a destructive little sister is quite inconvenient.

*****By now, you are probably wondering what the positive aspects of my role in the family are. Well, every once in a while, being "older and more responsible" can be a benefit. Occasionally one of my parent's experiments on me will turn out in my favor.

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This can happen in many ways. The best way is when I am allowed to do things that my sister is not because I am older. I call this the "I'm the oldest, so I'm more responsible" factor. This factor can be used as an excuse for anything from being able to shop for myself, to going out with friend. Unfortunately, overuse of this factor can lead to experiments such as the one that I have entitled "If your so responsible, get a job and make your own money."

°°°°° Although I'm poked, beaten (well, not litterally of course), and tested, I enjoy the position that I hold in my family. Being the oldest child, although it comes with a lot of responsibility, has it's benefits, and I wouldn't trade my life for anyone else's. Being an older brother in a loving family is a privelage that, whether I admit it or not, should not be taken for granted. Official Child-Raising Test Dummies rule!

Scores:

	Ideas	Organization	Voice	Word Choice	Fluency	Conventions
Reader 1	5	5	5	5	5	5-
Reader 2	5	5	4+	5	5-	5-

Comment 1: Here's a prime example of what is meant by "mastery" of the writing traits. This writer, one feels, can meet any writing challenge. We sense that the writer takes pleasure in writing, no longer hampered with fears of making errors, or revealing too much about himself. Not so apparent, perhaps, is the effort required to create such a polished, well-crafted piece the rewrites, editing, and more editing. There are mistakes to be sure, and perhaps some very cynical people might consider the whole piece somewhat "overdone". For this reader, that is not the point. What stands out is the writer's determination to write something worth reading, and his confidence that he CAN DO IT.

Comment 2: Beginning with the title and continuing on throughout the whole paper, this writer skillfully describes what it is like to be the first born in his family. The "5" descriptors in the rubric for WORD CHOICE fit this paper perfectly. For this rater, the "weakest" trait and it really is far from weak is VOICE. A sense of slightly keeping the readers at a distance off and on is the reason for the 4+ score.

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