

WRITING SAMPLE



This summer, I spent the Fourth of July at Gibson Park with my family. My grandpa, who lives several states away, came to visit and celebrate the holiday with us. Since I don't get to see him very often, it made the holiday even more special.

Once we were at the park, we needed to find a place to sit. There were more people there than grains of sand on a beach. We walked endlessly through a maze of blankets, picnic baskets, and smells of various Fourth of July feasts. Finally, we spotted a patch of grass in the sea of people. My brother and I quickly claimed the spot by unfolding our lawn chairs and spreading out our own oversized blanket.

The smell of everyone else's food made my stomach rumble, which let me know that it was time to eat. I helped my grandpa make his world-famous cheeseburgers on the small grill that we brought with us. While the burgers were cooking, Grandpa told me funny stories about when my dad was little. We laughed so hard that we both forgot about the cheeseburgers, which ended up more burned than world-famous.

Once the fireworks started, my eyes focused on the sky. The bright colors lit the dark night like a sunny afternoon. The patterns reminded me of sprinkles on top of birthday cakes. When I realized that the fireworks were reflected in the lake, it was like I was seeing two fireworks shows, one above and one below.

After the fireworks finale, I helped fold the blanket and lawn chairs. I wasn't looking forward to the long trek home, but the time passed faster than I expected. With the fireworks and spending time with my grandpa, it had been a great Fourth of July.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER SAMPLE

Name: Pat Johnson

Introduction

What? Where? With whom?

Fourth of July, Gibson Park, family, grandpa visited

Body

1 Topic sentence:

find place to sit

Supporting details:

- many people
- walked through blankets, picnics
- found a spot, unfolded chairs, spread blanket

2 Topic sentence:

got hungry, time to eat

Supporting details:

- helped grandpa make cheeseburgers
- grandpa told funny stories about dad
- almost burned the cheeseburgers

3 Topic sentence:

fireworks started

Supporting details:

- bright colors in dark sky
- patterns looked like sprinkles
- reflected in the lake

Conclusion

Feeling or solution:

packed up, walked home, best Fourth of July

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Name: _____

Introduction

What? Where? With whom?

Body

1 Topic sentence:

Supporting details:

-
-
-

2 Topic sentence:

Supporting details:

-
-
-

2 Topic sentence:

Supporting details:

-
-
-

Conclusion

Feeling or solution:

REVISION CHECKLIST

Instructions: Check each box as you read over your writing.

- My introduction shows details for who and what the story is about.
- The body is organized into paragraphs for each of the ideas (at least three).
- I use at least three descriptive details to tell more about each idea.
- Each sentence is complete and makes sense.
- I include some figurative language.
- I use simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- I use first-person point of view.
- My conclusion shows a feeling or solution and why the topic is memorable.

**REVISION CHECKLIST**

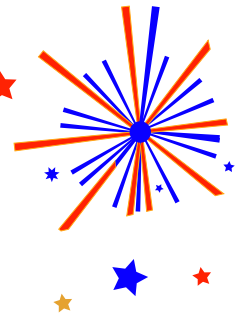
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POSTER



The Fourth of July



Introduction

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Body

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Conclusion

After the fireworks finale, I helped fold the blanket and lawn chairs. I wasn't looking forward to the long trek home, but the time passed faster than I expected. With the fireworks and spending time with my grandpa, it had been a great Fourth of July.

Details

TEACHER RUBRIC

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Check the box next to each number that best describes the student's writing.

A. Introduction

- 4. Developed introduction in paragraph form
- 3. Introduction with some detail included
- 2. Simple beginning paragraph
- 1. Simple beginning sentence
- 0. Missing a beginning/introduction



B. Body: Organizes ideas

- 4. Three or more developed ideas; each idea organized into paragraphs; several transitional devices
- 3. Three ideas each organized into a paragraph; some transitional devices
- 2. More than one idea organized into a body paragraph
- 1. Ideas organized into sentences; ideas may be unorganized or difficult to follow at times; no paragraphs
- 0. No organization of ideas; random words and/or phrases

C. Includes descriptive details

- 4. At least three descriptive details about each idea
- 3. At least two descriptive details about each idea
- 2. One detail about each idea; some are descriptive
- 1. Basic detail included about some ideas
- 0. No details included

D. First-person point of view

- 3. Uses consistently
- 2. Uses most of the time
- 1. Uses inconsistently
- 0. Does not use at all

E. Conclusion

- 4. Developed conclusion in paragraph form
- 3. Conclusion with some detail included
- 2. Simple ending paragraph
- 1. Simple ending sentence
- 0. Missing an ending/conclusion

Beginning:	0-7
Early Developing:	8-11
Developing:	12-15
Fluent:	16-19

Score _____