

Prompt: If you could give a special gift or award to a deserving person, what would it be and why? Share reasons and details as you compose your answer.

Student Sample O

“My mom”

I love my mom. She is caring, wonderful and glorious. I can't tell you how loving she is. It's way to hard to tell.

My mom buys me lots and lots of stuff.

When I have a play at school she comes, and whenever I go on a field trip and she can go she goes.

Sometimes we play games like Bingo, Scene It, are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader? and cards. We also watch movies, and sometimes we even go outside and throw the football around.

She also takes me to a lot of places like WildIsland, Coconut Bowl and Miniature Golfing.

If I could give my mom an award I would give her the Best Mom In the Whole Universe award. I care so much about my mom it is unbelievable.

How would you score this sample?	
(1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score)	
_____	Idea Development
_____	Organization
_____	Voice
_____	Conventions

Annotations for Student Sample O

I=3 O=3 V=3 C=3.5

Ideas:

The ideas in this paper are clear and focused about the author's mother. The reader wishes for more specific details, and may find the ones mentioned to be a bit general. *"My mom buys me lots and lots of stuff."* The topic shows promise, but doesn't go far enough yet in expanding or adding new insights.

Organization:

The organizational structure in this paper is strong enough to move the reader from point to point and doesn't get in the way of the storyline. There is a recognizable introduction and conclusion, but both are short in length. Overall, the transitions do work well and the structure is logical. *"She also takes me to a lot of places like WildIsland, Coconut Bowl and Miniature golfing."*

Voice:

The writer of this paper seems sincere throughout the paper and does seem aware of an audience. The word choice reveals the writer's attitude toward the topic in some places (*"She is caring, wonderful and glorious."*), but becomes general in others. The paper seems earnest, but short of compelling.

Conventions:

This paper's writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard writing conventions. The sentences are generally structured correctly and the few run-ons do not impede meaning. *"When I have a play at school she comes, and whenever I go on a field trip and she can go she goes."* Both spelling and capitalization are usually correct.

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Student Sample P

Untitled

I want my grandmother to have her dream car. I dont really know what it is. She has a really old car. It forty seven years old. She works so hard she watches my brother and my two sisters.

She helps me with my homework. My grandma takes me everywhere like Jump man Jump, chuke cheese, coconut bowl, and wild waters. My grandma, me my brother, my two sisters, and my cousin always make cookies and stuff on holidays, we make eggs on easter, cookie christmas trees on christmas, cookie Valentines hearts on Valentines day. she always buys me new hermit crabs on my birthday.

Those are the reasons my grandma deserves her dream car. I Love my grandma.

How would you score this sample?

(1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score)

_____ Idea Development

_____ Organization

_____ Voice

_____ Conventions

Annotations for Student Sample P

I=3 O=2.5 V=3 C=2.5

Ideas:

The topic of *Sample P* shows promise, even though development is still a bit limited and sketchy in a few places. “*I don’t really know what it is. She has a really old car.*” The ideas are reasonably clear overall, but are not as detailed or expanded as the reader would like them to be. “*My grandma, me my brother, my two sisters, and my cousin always make cookies and stuff on holidays...*”

Organization:

The first thing the reader notices about this paper is the lack of a real introduction. “*I want my grandmother to have her dream car.*” The structure in the middle paragraph is weak and is a bit confusing. There is, however, a recognizable conclusion which brings closure to the paper. “*Those are the reasons my grandma deserves her dream car.*”

Voice:

The writer of *Sample P* seems sincere when talking about the grandma, and is aware of an audience. “*I love my grandma.*” The word choice is basic, but reveals the writer’s attitude in some places. “*She works so hard she watches my brother and my two sisters.*” The voice in this paper is earnest, but falls short of being compelling.

Conventions:

The run-on sentences in this paper are quite noticeable, but do not impede meaning. “*My grandma, me my brothers, my two sisters, and my cousin always make cookies and stuff on holidays, we make eggs on easter...*” The spelling is usually correct on common words and reasonably phonetic on more difficult words such as “*Valientes day.*” External punctuation is almost always correct and there are attempts at correct internal punctuation. This paper would require quite a bit more editing to earn a 3 in conventions.

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Student Sample Q

Untitled

I pick my friend because she help me with math and spelling world. And I like her Because she is nice to. And her name is Tabitha. That her name. She take me place give me food. Give me toys. And that is nice of her. That why I pick her. She help me spelling. That nice of her. That why she my best friend. That why I pick her. Because she help me when I get hurt. And that is nice of her. And she give me cards. And make me a picture. She teacher me how to drawh. And that is nice of her. And she give me food. that was nice of her. And she give me food. that was nice of her. That is nice of her. That is nice of her. That is all about her. My story all done. The end. She is a nice friend. That why I pick her. And she lake me go to her house. That is nice of her That why I will give her a reward. Because she is nice of her.all done about my story. And I like my story. That is all about my story all done. She is a good friend. That why I pick her. All done about my story.

How would you score this sample?

(1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score)

_____ Idea Development

_____ Organization

_____ Voice

_____ Conventions

Annotations for Student Sample Q

I=2 O=2 V=2 C=2

Ideas:

This paper is very repetitious. Information about the “*nice friend*” is repeated many times throughout the piece. However, the writer does stick to the topic of the friend and the “*reward*” she deserves. The topic is mostly restated and is never really developed.

Organization:

Sample Q’s organization definitely hinders the reader. There is an attempt at an introduction, “*I pick my friend because she help me with math and spelling world,*” but it does not create a strong sense of anticipation. A weak conclusion ends the piece, but it does not give the reader much of a sense of completion. “*She is a good friend. That why I pick her.*”

Voice:

The word choice in this paper flattens all potential highs and lows and is often repetitious and simplistic. “*That nice of her.*” The writer tries to explain how she feels about her friend, but ends up failing to establish a connection with the reader.

Conventions:

The overall conventions in Sample Q are quite flawed, although most of the capitalization is correct. The errors in English grammar are very noticeable and sometimes interfere with the meaning. There are also numerous sentence fragments. “*And she give me food.*”

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Student Sample R

“The Best Housekeeper”

If I could give an award to a person, I would give it to my mom. I would give her the award of “Excellent Housekeeper.”

My mom is certainly the person in my family that cleans the most. On weekdays, most of the time she cleans while I’m at school. She is usually done with her cleaning by the time I’m home from school, so I don’t often see her going about her work. However, on weekends it seems as if she does nothing but clean.

My mom does the laundry, dusts the furniture, and, straightens up the living room. She also vacuums, sweeps, and mops the floor. Her least favorite job is cleaning the bathrooms because she thinks cleaning toilets is gross. Her favorite job is cleaning her scrapbooking area because she can scrapbook as she works.

When my mom is done cleaning, everything is neat and tidy. Everything is where it should be. The floor is clean, and the laundry is done.

My mom deserves the award of “Excellent Housekeeper” because she keeps everything tidy. She is an excellent housekeeper.

How would you score this sample?	
(1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score)	
_____	Idea Development
_____	Organization
_____	Voice
_____	Conventions

Scorer Annotations for Student Sample R

I=4.5 O=5 V=4.5 C=5

Ideas:

The writer of *Sample R* seems to be writing from experience and the details added are interesting. “*When my mom is done cleaning, everything is neat and tidy. Everything is where it should be.*” The anecdotes the writer chooses to include are relevant to the storyline. “*Her least favorite job is cleaning the bathrooms because she thinks cleaning toilets is gross.*” The writer develops the topic quite well.

Organization:

The organization is strong in this paper and is very smooth. The progression of ideas is very well-controlled and the sequencing is logical and effective. The transitions are smooth and make this paper very cohesive. “*However, on weekends it seems as if she does nothing but clean.*” The introduction draws the reader in and the conclusion sums up the paper nicely.

Voice:

The writer of this paper is aware of the audience that will read this paper and speaks right to them. The honesty of this paper is charming and establishes a strong connection to the reader. “*Her least favorite job is cleaning the bathrooms because she thinks cleaning toilets is gross.*” The voice in this paper makes it quite charming.

Conventions:

The writer of this paper demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions, and the errors that appear are few and minor. This paper would only need light editing to polish the text for publication. Internal and external punctuation contain few, if any errors. “*When my mom is done cleaning, everything is neat and tidy.*” The reader also notices that the sentence structures are varied. This is clearly an above average paper in conventions.

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Student Sample S

“My MOM!”

Hi, my name is Ellena and I am going to rite u bowt my mom. Is becos she is nice, and I have 3 sisters, and 1 brather on the way. I wont to gave an reward. And my mom ustowark at JCe panes. I Love her so much.

Do u wont to nowe her name. Her name is JasuckolDriscoll. I hop sum day you can meet her. And I am the oldest owt of all my 3 sisters. I Love her so much, and I Love my sister like my mom. I Love thamvere much.

I Love mom so ver much. I am hap that I have her in my Life. Wen I was born I was a preme. I was like 3 powns, and my mom dos not like to swam. I am verprowd of my mom. I Love the way she lovs me.

How would you score this sample?	
(1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score)	
_____	Idea Development
_____	Organization
_____	Voice
_____	Conventions

Annotations for Student Sample S

I=2 O=2 V=2 C=2

Ideas:

This paper lacks clear direction and it is difficult to sort out the important details about why the mother is important to the child. *“I was like 3 powns, and my mom dos not like to swam.”* It often reads like a collection of random thoughts and even though the reader can see where the writer is headed, more information is needed to “fill in the blanks.”

Organization:

Sample S attempts an introduction and conclusion, but both need to be improved in order to meet the standard. The ideas are strung together in a random fashion. *“And my mom ustowark at JCE panes.”* The reader is often unsure as to why certain details are even included.

Voice:

The writer seems aware of an audience at times as evidenced by the first sentence; however, most of the message is flattened by repetitious word choice. The writer sometimes seems sincere, but often retreats behind very general words. *“I love her so much, and I love my sister like my mom.”*

Conventions:

Sample S has frequent spelling errors that are very noticeable. The sentence structure is flawed and very simplistic. There are also many grammatical errors. *“I wont to gave an reward.”*

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Student Sample T

“MyBestFriend”

If I could give a special gift or award to a deserving person it would be my best friend Kourtney.

I would give her a trophy, but not just any trophy! It would be a big trophy about 10 feet tall. It would be made out of pure gold. It would be showing a figure of her caring for an abandoned little puppy. It would be personalized saying:

Kourtney Eve Robinson
Best Friend Award
2007-2008

Why I would give this award to her is because she is a nice and sweet girl. She is smart, caring, helpful, and kind. She is a loving, gentle and crazy person. If she saw someone crying or being teased by mean people she would go up to that person and make him/her feel better. She loves to play sports just like jump-rope, hopscotch, basketball, football, soccer, and swim. She wears glasses, has blonde hair, has blue eyes, her skin color is peachy-white, and she wears the show brand Vans.

Those are the reasons why I would give her a special gift or award, so if you see her you would realize how nice she is and you would try to steal her from me. Well, too bad because she's mine. Mine, mine, mine!!!

THE END!

P.S. Remember that Kourtney is mine!

How would you score this sample? (1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score)	
_____	Idea Development
_____	Organization
_____	Voice
_____	Conventions

Annotations for Student Sample T

I=4.5 O=4 V=4.5 C=4.5

Ideas:

Sample T is a delight to read because the details are fresh and engaging. These details give the reader information that he or she could not personally bring to the text. “*She wears glasses, has blond hair, has blue eyes, her skin color is peachy-white, and she wears the shoe brand Vans.*” This gives the reader a clear image of the subject’s appearance while supporting the story line.

Organization:

This paper has a recognizable introduction and a conclusion that sums up the paper nicely. The sequencing of the paper is logical and the details seem to fit where they are placed. Although the transitions between ideas can sometimes be a bit awkward, they do not impede meaning. “*Why I would give this award to her is because she is a nice and sweet girl.*” The reader realizes that the writer is transitioning to a new paragraph, but wishes for a clearer beginning.

Voice:

The writer of this paper has an engaging voice that brings it to life. “*It would be showing a figure of her caring for an abandoned little puppy.*” This is a charming image that engages the reader in the text. The ending of the paper is very expressive and brings a smile to the reader’s face. “*Well, too bad because she’s mine. Mine, mine mine!*” This paper’s word choice also clarifies the writer’s attitude toward her friend. “*She is a loving, gentle and caring person.*”

Conventions:

The writer has a good grasp of standard writing conventions. The spelling is correct even on more difficult words such as “hopscotch”, “abandoned” and “trophy”. The sentence structures are varied with only a few errors, such as this run-on: “*Those are the reasons why I would give her a special gift or award, so if you see her you would realize how nice she is and you would try to steal her from me.*” The writer handles some conventions well, but some noticeable errors still exist that distract the reader at times.

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Student Sample U

Untitled

If I could give an award to someone it would be my dad. My dad helps me, teaches me, and encourages me. He helps with homework or a science project. He taught me how to play football, he taught me how to ski, he taught me how to fish, he taught me how to ride my bike, and a lot more.

He takes care of me if I'm sick or injured. My dad is a caring person who serves others first and doesn't think just about him.

On the other hand he is fun. He takes us to places like DisneyLand, Universal Studios in Florida, Cancun in Mexico, and a lot more, so if I could give an award to someone, it would go to my dad because all the stuff that he does for me. I love my dad!

How would you score this sample?

(1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score)

_____ Idea Development

_____ Organization

_____ Voice

_____ Conventions

Annotations for Student Sample U

I=3 O=3 V=3 C=3

Ideas:

Sample U shows promise, but the development is still limited. The ideas are reasonably clear, but aren't very detailed. "*On the other hand, he is fun.*" The main points of this paper are a blend of the original and the predictable. "*So if I could give an award to someone it would go to my dad because all the stuff he does for me.*" Even though it is fairly easy to see where the writer is headed, more information is needed to "fill in the blanks."

Organization:

This paper begins and ends rather predictably. However, the organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader from point to point. It is organized logically, but there are not many transitions to move the reader along. The one transition that is present does work well. "*On the other hand, he is fun.*" Overall, the reader is able to move through the paper without much confusion.

Voice:

The writer of *Sample U* seems sincere, but the word choice is quite repetitive and flattens the true message. "*He takes care of me when I'm injured.*" This sentence is part of the series of repetitive sentences at the beginning where the word "he" is overused. The writer seems sincere when speaking about his father, but the writing seems to hide as much of the writer as it reveals.

Conventions:

The writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard writing conventions, and would require moderate editing to get this paper ready for publication. Spelling and capitalization are usually correct, as well as external punctuation. The run-on sentences do not seriously impede meaning, but do slow up the reader a bit. *He taught me how to play football, he taught me how to ski, he taught me how to fish, he taught me how to ride my bike and a lot more.*" Overall, the problems with grammar and usage are not serious enough to distort meaning.

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