

Grade 4 Sample Test Prompt

Organization

We all have things that we believe are exciting. Think of something you have done that was exciting to you. It might be winning a ball game, getting a new pet, or riding a bike.

Write a story about a time when you felt excited.

Your essay should

- Have a beginning, middle, and end .
- Describe the exciting experience .
- Include details about the experience .

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

ORGANIZATION

<p>6</p> <p>The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective, perhaps creative, sequencing; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • a strong, inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a strong satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, and ideas). • details that fit where placed. 	<p>5</p> <p>The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text. The writing is characterized by.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective sequencing; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • an inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, and ideas). • details that fit where placed. 	<p>4</p> <p>Organization is clear and coherent. Order and structure are present, but may seem formulaic. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear sequencing. • an organization that may be predictable. • a recognizable, developed beginning that may not be particularly inviting; a developed conclusion that may lack subtlety. • a body that is easy to follow with details that fit where placed. • transitions that may be stilted or formulaic. • organization which helps the reader, despite some weaknesses.
<p>3</p> <p>An attempt has been made to organize the writing; however, the overall structure is inconsistent or skeletal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempts at sequencing, but the order or the relationship among ideas may occasionally be unclear. • a beginning and an ending which, although present, are either undeveloped or too obvious (e.g. “My topic is...”, “These are all the reasons that...”) • transitions that sometimes work. The same few transitional devices (e.g., coordinating conjunctions, numbering, etc.) may be overused. • a structure that is skeletal or too rigid. • placement of details that may not always be effective. • organization which lapses in some places, but helps the reader in others. 	<p>2</p> <p>The writing lacks a clear organizational structure. An occasional organizational device is discernible; however, the writing is either difficult to follow and the reader has to reread substantial portions, or the piece is simply too short to demonstrate organizational skills. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some attempts at sequencing, but the order or the relationship among ideas is frequently unclear. • a missing or extremely undeveloped beginning, body, and/or ending. • a lack of transitions, or when present, ineffective or overused. • a lack of an effective organizational structure. • details that seem to be randomly placed, leaving the reader frequently confused. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing lacks coherence; organization seems haphazard and disjointed. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a lack of effective sequencing. • a failure to provide an identifiable beginning, body and/or ending. • a lack of transitions. • pacing that is consistently awkward; the reader feels either mired down in trivia or rushed along too rapidly. • a lack of organization which ultimately obscures or distorts the main point.

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Writing

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the game is pader time play outside. outside is
hot. inside is warm. I Game coBe.

Score point 1 – The writing lacks coherence. There is a failure to provide an identifiable beginning, body, and ending. There is a lack of transitions. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused.

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Go On 

Writing**FINAL COPY**

First thing is I was moving from Oregan to Arizona and we had my cat Tigger in the car with us and he wouldn't eat his own food he would begg for ours. He was the only cat we had with us. Some times when we would go to sleep he would to and some times he didn't he would just go to sleep on us. Some times Tigger would play with us. And we would play the Quiet Game and win like a soda or a pack of bubble gum. And we went to fast food places. And we would go to rest stops and stores and we slept in our car. And only went to two motels.

Score point 2 – The response has an extremely undeveloped beginning, body, and ending. There are some attempts at sequencing (First, and) but overall, there is a lack of effective organizational structure. The reader doesn't know if the details occurred in one day or over a period of weeks.

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It all started on the year of 2002 on christmas we went to my aunts to have a christmas party, we danced and opened presents. After all the excitement the next day my sister came with a box I asked what was in there she opened it and guess what it was, A BABY KITTEN! It was so little and cute. I wanted to hug it really tight! So I did it was really tiny. I gave it some milk in a little bottle, it fell asleep. Then it woke up in an hour and the first thing it did was scratch me. Then a few months it got big. And he would go around my legs so I could pick it up. So that's the story of me and my cat!

Score point 3 – The beginning and ending are undeveloped or too obvious: “it all started...” and “So that’s the story...” The writer uses transitions that sometimes work (After and So), but the same few are overused (then, so, and). The overall structure is skeletal.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

When I got my pet bird

Monday One day when I was playing with my dogs Natasha and Ozzy all a sudden a bird fell on my head. It came from the sky so I thought it was raining birds. The dog picked it up and almost ate the bird. So I took it from the dog and brought it inside. He was a little bird related to a Cockatiel.

Tuesday The next day I took very good care of the bird and I feed it, gave him water, held him, and bought him toys. I also loved him and cared for him so he would fill at home. But my dad told me "if some one come looking for him give him back."

Wednesday we became great friends. He loves me and I love him. He loves me because I play with him, give him treats, cared for him. Even if he did something wrong I'll still love him. I love him because he's always by my side he's cares for me and he's funny. The good new is the no one was looking for him. This was the begining of a

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Writing

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good friend ship even know hes a bird.
I'm glad hes in the family tree still.


The end.

Score point 4 – Organization is clear and coherent, but may seem formulaic: the days of the week as paragraph beginnings. However, the organization helps the reader, despite some weaknesses. The organization helps the reader, despite some weaknesses. There is a recognizable beginning and a conclusion.



Writing**FINAL COPY**

The most exciting place I ever been to would be California Adventure. I woke up at 8:30 A.M in the morning. I ran to get my clothes on. My whole family was ready, and our bags were in the car we were ready to go! Then we drove about 3 and a half hours. It didn't seem long for me because I was extremely excited. We went to our hotel and got settled and went to sleep. The next morning we drove to California Adventure when we finally got there it was amazing! There was a huge roller coaster, a ferris wheel, a big food court, and more. And right beside the rides and games there is a big lake. I ran to the Bee Stinger first. The Bee Stinger is very fun! You go on these swings and it lifts you up and spins you around. I got so dizzy I couldn't even stand up straight. Then we went on the big ferris wheel. I went with my sister we were at the very top. I was a little scared because I'm a little afraid of heights. Then we went round and round. It was very beautiful looking at the theme park high above. Then I went on my favorite ride The California Screamin! It was so fast! And we went up side down I think we went on it about 9 times. After that we were getting kind of hungry. So we went to the food court to get something to eat. I got a hot dog and some soda it was very good! Then we went to this building it was called

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Writing**FINAL COPY**

Susan Over California. We sat on this high bleacher and then all of a sudden the bleachers rose up and we were flying! It was so cool you could even smell the ocean if you flew over it. And you can smell the oranges if you flew over that. And you can feel the wind blowing against you it made me shiver and get goose bumps but it was fun. After that we were at the last ride it was a water ride. We went on this raft and went down water falls and rapids. It was so much fun! It was funny when the ride was over. Because I was soaked and I looked like a wet dog! Then we were done. I was kind of sad that we were finished but I will always remember my exciting day at California Adventure.

Score point 5 – The order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text. The organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. Details fit where placed. The first and last sentences begin and end the “California Adventure” appropriately.

Writing**FINAL COPY**Getting A Puppy

A couple of years ago I had the time of my life. It was when I got my first puppy. I was very excited and very joyful. The puppy was a black, tiny, little pup, which I called Maggie. Everybody could tell I was very happy, which I was.

Then, Maggie started to get bigger, and she became my best friend of all. Once I would get home I would go directly outside and play with Maggie, which we both just loved to do. She was so gentle and so playful, she almost seemed to be my little sister. These times were the best of all, and I could tell that if Maggie could talk she would say exactly what I said.

Maggie started to get larger and larger. As soon as I found out that we were moving, I knew we would have to give Maggie away, because she was too much to bring along. Maggie was my best friend of all, so I kept on playing with Maggie until time was up. But, I knew that Maggie was here to bring me joy and now she was going to give someone

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Writing

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else as much joy as she did to me. From then on I never forgot how happy I was when I got my first puppy, and all of the best times we had together. I bet Maggie was as happy as I was when I got her.
~ The End ~

Score point 6 – The organization enhances the central idea and its development. A strong, inviting beginning draws the reader in, and a strong, satisfying sense of resolution effectively ends the response. The writer skillfully uses smooth transitions among all elements.

