

Grade 5 Sample Test Prompt

Word Choice

Imagine a train that could take you anywhere on Earth! You have a ticket in your hand for a trip that can make stops at three places.

Write a story about what happens from the time you get on the train until it returns to your hometown.

Your writing should:

- Have a story line with clear sequence.
- Use descriptive words and phrases.
- Have well-developed characters.
- Describe the setting.

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

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

WORD CHOICE

<p>6</p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, strong, specific words; powerful words energize the writing. • fresh, original expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke strong images; figurative language may be used. 	<p>5</p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing. • fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used. 	<p>4</p> <p>Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that work but do not particularly energize the writing. • expression that is functional; however, slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective. • attempts at colorful language that may occasionally seem overdone. • occasional overuse of technical language or jargon. • rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments and generally avoids clichés.
<p>3</p> <p>Language is quite ordinary, lacking interest, precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of “generic” paper filled with familiar words and phrases. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that work, but that rarely capture the reader’s interest. • expression that seems mundane and general; slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not effective. • attempts at colorful language that seem overdone or forced. • words that are accurate for the most part, although misused words may occasionally appear, technical language or jargon may be overused or inappropriately used. • reliance on clichés and overused expressions. 	<p>2</p> <p>Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that are colorless, flat or imprecise. • monotonous repetition or overwhelming reliance on worn expressions that repeatedly distract from the message. • images that are fuzzy or absent altogether. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general, vague words that fail to communicate. • an extremely limited range of words. • words that simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise, inadequate, or just plain wrong.

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Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

One Day I was sitting on the couch
watching tv. I went to check the mail
and there was a envelope then I opened
it was a ticket to go on a magic
train that can take me anywhere
I want to go. I went to the
train stop

Score point 1 -- This paper has an extremely limited vocabulary. Only a general kind of message is communicated. Many words are directly from the prompt.

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

My name is _____ and I have a ticket to a train called the Bulldozer. I got on the train and went to Brazil I met my uncle said hi and got back on the train to Chile. I got there and it became boring so I left and return home in Mesa, Arizona. I told my family all about my adventure.

Score point 2 --Words are colorless and flat, detracting from the meaning and impact. No action verbs are used to create excitement. Images are fuzzy or absent altogether. The short paper is monotonous.

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

If there were a train to go anywhere on earth, I will go to North Pole and to LA, and to New York. I will like to go to New York to see where were the twin towers.

I will like to go to the North Pole to play snow ball fight and make a snow man and snow Angels. On to play hid and seek or tag.

I will like to go to LA to see the LA Dodgers play and win at least two or five times in a row and met the LA Dodgers and my family to for they can see them.

If only I can bring my family and some my friends like tia and letha and all the teacher and staff and the principal and my dog.

If I don't go to LA and go to hollywood to see 50cent if he is there in hollywood it will be so grate.

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Go On 

Writing

FINAL COPY

If there were a train to go anywhere on earth. I will go to Canada to see and meet people and then for they can go to my house here in Yuma, AZ.

If there were a train to go anywhere on earth. I will go to Los Angeles and go say hi to my family and stay for like 1 hour and thirty mins.

If I went to two places and I have one more left. I will go to Sea World and have fun and and take one of my friends or go to the Zoo to see the animals.

If now I have no more left to go I will go back home and sleep for a little bit time I will wake up and eat and see tv with my family.

Then I will sleep for a half of a hour then wake up and play outside with my cousin and go walking and play tag

Score point 3 -- Language is quite ordinary. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of “generic” paper filled with familiar words and phrases (“If there were...”; “If I went...”; “I will like...”). The paper is characterized by words that work, but that rarely capture the interest of the reader.

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

It was cold outside. I could see it in the air. I was snowing a little. I was sitting by a man that was very quiet. He looked cold. I tried talking to him but he never answered me. I was in Alaska waiting to get to mesa. Every stop somebody got off and somebody got on. But the man that sat next to me never got off. I could tell this was going to be a long ride. It was quiet on the bus. There was a lady that was working hard trying to get everybody their drinks and picking up trash. She was the one that actually talked to me. She had brown hair and earring that hung down. After she got me my drink. I put on my headphones and put in my favorite CD and started to listen. I got so into the song. I stood up and started to sing. I didn't even notice until my song was over and everyone was clapping for me. It was embarrassing. The train was almost to Mesa. I was happy. I sat down and the guy

Page 5

Go On 

Writing

FINAL COPY

next to me talked he was
real nice. Now every one on
the bus started to talk. They helped
the lady with the drinks. Finally, it
got to my stop. Everybody said
by. I felt good and proud of
my self.

Score point 4 -- Words effectively convey the intended message; they work but do not particularly energize the writing. The writer generally avoids clichés and has some fine moments: “It was cold outside. I could see it in the air.” and “She was the one that actually talked to me. She had brown hair and earring that hung down.”



Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

The Trainride of a lifetime

My mother called me down from my room, "Ben, it's time to open presents." I ran downstairs to the table where my presents were sitting. I ripped all of them open except for one. In the presents I recieved toys, money, and a playstation. Then I saw one small box. When I opened the box, there sat a train ticket. My mom said the train could take me anywhere in the world. Boy was I very excited.

When the train stopped at my house one month later, I packed up my things and was gone. Then the service man asked me where I wanted to go. "Tennessee, Washinton D.C., and New York" I said. While I was traveling to Tennessee, my first stop, I got free food. While traveling, the train almost de-miled. When the train arrived in Tennessee, I followed a sign to aski lift. I rented a snowboard and hit the slopes. When I was done, the train took me to a hotel where I spent the night.

When I woke up the next morning I went to the Titan stadium to see them play. They won 35-7. After that it was time to head for D.C.

When the train stopped at the White House, I took a tour. While touring we ran into George W. Bush. I got his autograph. After the tour, I explored the city. When I went back to the train I told Mike, my server, that there are many ^{interesting} facts about D.C. It was night when we were heading for New York, so I went into my cabin and slept.

Writing

FINAL COPY

The train tooted and came to a stop. I got out and went to the Broadway Theater and saw the Wizard of Oz. It was time for lunch so I ate at Richies Pizzeria, my dad's favorite restaurant. Before I left I stood on top of the Empire State Building. Then, before I knew it, I was home. That was a journey of a lifetime.

Score point 5 -- The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen. "...hit the slopes" and "...heading for New York..." are word choices that energize the writing. The use of action verbs such as "ripped," "explored," and "tooted" evoke clear images. The writing is natural and not overdone.



Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

Hi! My name is _____ and I'm about to take the trip of a lifetime! I have a ticket on the only "train" that can go around the world. This "train" (if you really want to call it that.) can submerge to a depth of 40,000 ft. And (Without frying people) survive temperatures of 7,500 degrees! As you can imagine I'm elated! Vroooooommm! My head slammed back into my headrest as we sped off towards my first stop, Britain, where I plan to have tea with the queen. Whoosh! The train stopped without any noise except the whistle of air passing over us. If I told you about my encounter with the queen, well, it would be really long. Off we go to my next stop, India, where the Raja plans to give me a short tour of the Tajmahal, which I found quite enjoyable. The Train's Electro magnets buzzed as we prepared to submerge to an exact depth of

Writing

FINAL COPY

32,343 ft. below the surface. There was a bump as we crossed the switch-track that would lead us to the Atlantic Ocean. We sped along a full speed as I watched the marine life in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. I couldn't wait until my last stop. We're almost there... home, at last!

Score point 6 -- The paper has a rich, broad range of words are carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is energized. There is fresh, original expression. Word choices such as “Vroooooommm,” “slammed,” “encounter,” and “buzzed” evoke strong images.

