**WRITTEN COMPOSITION—Expository**

Read the following quotation.

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| Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.  —*A. A. Milne* |

First impressions can sometimes be misleading. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining the importance of getting to know people before forming an opinion about them.

Be sure to —

* clearly state your thesis
* organize and develop your ideas effectively
* choose you words carefully
* edit your writing for grammar, mechanics and spelling

**Reasons Details**

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Written Composition—Expository Essay

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| **Introduction**: Lead (Introduce the Topic) / Thesis Statement **(2-3)** |

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| **Main Reason:** Explain and defend your main reason. (facts, examples, cause/effect relationships, compare and contrast) **(5-8)** |

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| **Expand Main Reason:** Discuss in detail an example, anecdote, or analogy that supports your main reason. **(5-6)** |

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| **Conclusion:** Reflect on paragraph three. What conclusions can you draw from the point you made in paragraph three? **(2-4)** |

**How and Why Café**

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| **Development  Strategy** | **Definition** | **Your Example** |
| **How** | **Explain how a particular step can be completed or how something can be done.** |  |
| **Why** | **Explain why it is necessary to do something or complete a particular step.** |  |
| **Caution** | **Give cautionary advice as you explain something.** |  |
| **Anecdote** | **Provide a personal story that relates to the topic**. |  |
| **Fact** | **Provide evidence that can be proven.** |  |
| **Example** | **Include a scenario that happened to someone other than the author.** |  |

**Other Forms of Development**

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| **Development  Strategy** | **Definition** | **Your Example** |
| **Historical Event** | **Provide a historical event that relates to your topic.** |  |
| **Historical Person** | **Provide an example of a historical person that relates to your topic.** |  |
| **Pop Culture**  **Example** | **Provide an example from pop culture that relates to your topic.** |  |
| **Analogy** | **Compare your topic to something else and provide some insights.** |  |

Sample Essay Score 4 from TEA Website

(Follows the format in Graphic Organizer)

{Essay is typed exactly as the student wrote it.}

First impressions can often be misleading, and one should get to know people before forming an opinion about them because it may change over time.

People do not show their true self when they meet a person for the first time because they are unsure of what the other person is like. They often act more politely and maturely, with some tension. After people get to know each other, they tend to relax more and reveal themselves little by little. They may reveal a great characteristic, such as great humor or outgoingness, or they may reveal some flaws, such as dishonesty. These things can’t be seen from the outside, so they can’t be judged right away.

An example of this is food. If you’ve never tried a type of food before, you judge it by color, ingredients, texture, and overall appearance. You may think that fish are disgusting, but once you try it, you may find that it actually tastes good. There might be a large, red delicious strawberry, but once you take a bite, you may realize that it is sour and unappetizing.

Everything has many layers to it, and humans have more layers than other things. They are more sophisticated than food, or sports. It takes longer to peel back the layers to get to the truth, which may be completely different from their facades. It may take months, or maybe years to get there, so first impressions can’t always be taken for the whole, because you only see the thick layers at first.

**Commentary from Graders**

This accomplished writing performance is centered on the thesis that hasty conclusions about a person are misleading and “may change over time.” The development is effective because specific, well-chosen examples explain how initial meetings are marked by uncertainty, but as people get to know one another, true personalities are revealed. The writer connects ideas in an unusual, but interesting, way by comparing this process to trying new food or unpeeling the layers of something “to get to the truth.” Meaningful sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationship among ideas, making the writer’s train of thought easy to follow. In addition, the sentences are varied and purposeful. Overall, the writer develops the essay in manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.