



# **Grade 7 Writing**

## **Expository Scoring Guide**

**April 2021**

# Grade 7 Writing Expository Prompt

## **WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository**

**READ** the following information.

We can show our appreciation of others with both words and actions. Showing appreciation means that we understand how valuable, special, or unique someone is.

**THINK** about ways people show their appreciation for each other.

**WRITE** an essay explaining why showing people you appreciate them can be important.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

## **Score Point 1**

**The essay represents a very limited writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the controlling idea is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer's response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

Showing people you appreciate them can be important because they won't feel like if you don't like them, or some times they will take it personal and think you choose who you like or think your bullying him/her.

Sometimes if you appreciate people they would be nice to you or do something to or they won't do nothing most people do. Sometimes they be so rote to if they are in a bad mood like if something happend to a family member or a friend, best friends or best friend if they are in the hospital or if a best friends mom or dad or grandma or grandpa that you knew from his friend. Maybe they just don't want to talk that day with you, or nobody or they just want to talk to you or just his mom.

### Score Point 1

The writer presents the unclear controlling idea that “Showing people you appreciate them can be important because they won't feel like if you don't like them, or some times they will take it personal and think you choose who you like or think your bullying him/her.” The writer then shifts abruptly from idea to idea (“Sometimes if you appreciate people they would be nice to you”; “if they are in a bad mood like if something happend to a family member”; “Maybe they just don't want to talk that day”), weakening the coherence of the essay. Vague examples (“Sometimes if you appreciate people they would be nice to you or do something to or they won't do nothing most people do”; “Sometimes they be so rote to if they are in a bad mood like if something happend to a family member or a friend”) are ineffective in explaining how showing appreciation prevents others from feeling as “if you don't like them.” The absence of end punctuation and the inclusion of superfluous commas in sentences (“Sometimes they be so rote to if they are in a bad mood like if something happend to a family member or a friend, best friends or best friend if they are in the hospital or if a best friends mom or dad or grandma or grandpa that you knew from his friend”; “Maybe they just don't want to talk that day with you, or nobody or they just want to talk to you or just his mom”) interfere with meaning and fluency. Overall, this essay represents a very limited writing performance.

### Score Point 1

The writer presents the unclear controlling idea that “if you appreciate people for who they are then it can make you look good.” The writer lists ways to make oneself look good (being well dressed, taking care of oneself, having a nice attitude), but these ideas are only weakly linked to the topic specified in the prompt as there is no clear connection between how one looks and the importance of showing appreciation. Additionally, a lack of transitions makes the essay difficult to follow. Although in the second half of the essay the writer provides several ways one might show appreciation (picking up something someone dropped, reciprocating appreciation, showing that you care), the examples address only the THINK statement and are too insufficiently developed to explain the importance of showing appreciation. The writer shows no command of sentence boundaries as the entire response is a lengthy run-on sentence. As a result, the writer’s thoughts (“Appreciating people can be very important”; “if you appreciate people for who they are then it can make you look good”) are not properly separated, which disrupts fluency and meaning in this very limited writing performance.

ways people show their appreciation for each other is liking the person, show the person some love and not telling bad things about how a person look or feels. All of these are how people appreciate others with kind and respect. Once there was a kid who was sick and couldn't play outside but my friends and me went to tell his mother that if the kid couldn't come outside but she said no because they made fun at him but we didn't we gave him appreciation to him. We liked him even if he was or injured. And my friends and me gave him love because no one gave him love or liked him for not having friends but we were friends with because he knew that we gave him love and nice to him so now that we go knock at his door we ask the mom and she says yes to us and now he is happy to get appreciation from us. It is good to give other people appreciation because others will give appreciation to you.

### Score Point 1

The writer presents the controlling idea at the end of the essay that “It is good to give other people appreciation because others will give appreciation to you.” However, neither the list of behaviors that begins the essay (“liking the person, show the person some love and not telling bad things about how a person look or feels”) nor the narrative about an injured classmate is connected to the controlling idea. Additionally, repetition (“show the person some love,” “we gave him appreciation,” “my friends and me gave him love,” “no one gave him love,” “we gave him love and nice to him”) and a lack of sentence-to-sentence connections make the essay difficult to follow. Because the response is almost entirely about showing kindness and respect rather than appreciation, the essay is only weakly linked to the prompt, demonstrating a lack of understanding of the expository writing task. The essay includes numerous errors in usage (“appreciate others with kind and respect”), punctuation (“my friends and me wen’t to tell his mother”) and grammar (“we gave him appreciation to him”). These errors, combined with a lack of command of sentence boundaries (“And my friends and me gave him love because no one one gave him love or liked him for not having friends but we were friends with because he knew that we gave him love and nice to him so now that we go knock at his door we ask the mom and she say’s yes to us and now he is happy to get appreciation from us”), disrupt the fluency of this very limited writing performance.



Appreciateing someone can be important whether it is sarcasm or it is real. Appreciating someone can be important because, It will make you feel good giving thanks, make them feel good that they've been appreciated, And might do that good deed again. And also, you could appreciate god that he blessed with something and that might have been your ticket in to heaven. Appreciating can be an impact on someone's life, that one appreciation might strive someone to a good person and save a finatiah suffering family and might effect every one and single person and our community will be better full of people we can appreciate and make us appreciable. For example someone might've been depressed and weepy and that sad person just open the door for someone that person the sad man opened the door for hugged him and apreciated him and then the sad man felt good. So basically all im saying is give a little appreciation and it is definitely important.

### Score Point 1

The writer provides the unclear controlling idea that “Appreciating someone can be important because, It will make you feel good giving thanks, make them feel good that they’ve been appreciated.” The development of ideas is weak as the writer lists the positive outcomes of appreciating others (“that might have been you’re ticket in to heaven”; “our community will be better”; “the sad man felt good”) in a random manner, making the essay difficult to follow. The writer’s statements (“That one appreciation might strive someone to a good person and save a finatiah suffering family”; “for example someone migh’ve been depressed and weepy and that sad person just open the door for someone that person the sad man opened the door for hugged him and apreciated him and then the sad man felt good”) are vague and do not explain the intrinsic and extrinsic value of showing appreciation. Numerous grammar and spelling errors (“might strive someone,” “and save a finatiah suffering family,” “every one and single person”), combined with the writer’s lack of command of sentence boundaries, create serious disruptions in the fluency and meaning of this very limited writing performance.

## **Score Point 2**

**The essay represents a basic writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's controlling idea is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective controlling idea or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.



To begin with, showing appreciating is important. It lets the other person know that you actually care about what they are doing for you. If they are buying all these things for you, and don't show any appreciating they are not going to want to buy anything for you no more. Showing appreciation is a big factor in life to be a better person.

Furthermore, if you're playing sports and you show appreciation towards your coach, he would notice and want to do more for you to improve. Being able to show appreciation to someone everyday will make the world a better place because by appreciating someone shows that somebody cares about what they do and notices their hard work.

In addition, if no one appreciated anyone in the world it would be cautic because appreciation is what keeps us going knowing that someone cares. Every job is to help us live better but if the people doing the jobs don't feel appreciated then whats the of doing my job if no one cares.

In conclusion, showing appreciation is one of the most important act anyone can show on one-another.

### Score Point 2

The writer presents the controlling idea that “Showing appreciation is a big factor in life to be a better person.” Although the writer attempts a cause-effect organizing structure, it is not successful because the ideas presented (appreciating gift-givers, appreciating your coach, appreciating people for the jobs they do) do not fully demonstrate how showing appreciation allows one to be a better person. The progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Transitions (“To begin with,” “Furthermore,” “In addition,” “In conclusion”) are used to list, instead of connect, the ideas of the essay. Wordiness and repetition (“In addition, if no one appreciated anyone in the world it would be cautic because appreciation is what keeps us going knowing that someone cares. Every job is to help us live better . . . whats the of doing my job if no one cares”) disrupt the flow of the essay. The essay is superficial with minimal development as the ideas (if you do not appreciate others, they will no longer buy gifts for you; if you appreciate your coach, your skills will improve; if you appreciate others, the world will be a better place; you should appreciate people for doing their jobs so they feel worthwhile) are too briefly presented. General and imprecise word choice (“buying all these things,” “buy anything for you no more,” “Every job,” “the people doing the jobs”) does not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay. Sentences are somewhat uncontrolled (“Being able to show appreciation to someone everyday will make the word a better place because by appreciating someone shows that somebody cares about what they do and notices their hard work”) and weaken the effectiveness of this basic writing performance.

It is important to show people that you appreciate them. If you don't show people this, they may not think you like them. They might start to feel sad, lonely, or uncared for.

In the movie Wonder a kid named Auggy has a disability, he is nervous to go to school because he thinks that people will make fun of him, but on Auggy's first day of school he found a friend who cared for him and showed him that he appreciated him. Happy. That's how Auggy felt when his new friend showed that he appreciated him.

I do something in school that is called partners in PE, it's where you help the disabled or special needs kids do PE. It is important that you show them that you appreciate them, so they will feel happy and will want to talk to you.

It is important to show people that you appreciate them, so they will be happy, excited, and loved. More people will want to be your friend if you appreciate them.

### Score Point 2

In the final paragraph of this essay, the writer presents the controlling idea that “It is important to show people that you appreciate them, so they will be happy, excited, and loved.” The five-paragraph organizing structure of the essay is evident, but it is not always appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt because the writer does not use the paragraphs to present separate ideas. Development of ideas is minimal because the ideas are too briefly presented (Auggy feels appreciated because he finds a caring friend on the first day of school; the writer shows appreciation for students with disabilities in Partners in PE) and do not fully explain how feeling “happy, excited, and loved” is a direct result of being appreciated. The writer’s general word choice (“think you like them,” “a kid named Auggy,” “I do something”) does not contribute to the clarity and quality of the essay. Additionally, the writer’s partial command of sentence boundaries (“In the movie Wonder a kid named Auggy has a disability, he is nervous . . .”; “I do something in school that is called partners in PE, it’s where you . . .”) creates minor disruptions in the fluency of this basic writing performance.

Showing and telling people that you appreciate them can help them in so many ways.

Some ways that you can show that you appreciate them is by telling them, helping them, loving them, and explaining how much you need them, and how important they are to you.

Some examples are that yesterday I helped my grandpa with cancer, I helped him by putting his bag in the car for him, and I helped him with whatever he needed help with. That's how you can help someone you appreciate.

Another example is my Mom. My Mom is a single parent raising 3 kids, the ages of her kids are 15, 13, & 9. We, well I, tell, and explain to her how much I need her and how much I love her. I also tell her that she is doing an amazing job as a single Mom, raising 3 kids.

These are some of the ways that you can show + tell people that are appreciated + very important.

### Score Point 2

The writer presents the controlling idea that “Showing and telling people that you appreciate them can help them in so many ways.” However, the progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled because transitions (“Some ways,” “Some examples,” “Another example”) are repetitious and too perfunctory to show the relationships among ideas and support the flow of the essay. The writer develops the essay in a superficial manner because instead of explaining how appreciation can benefit others, the writer lists ways one can show appreciation (“I helped my grandpa . . . with whatever he needed”; “We, well I, tell, and explain to her how much I need her and how much I love her”), demonstrating only a limited understanding of the expository writing task. In addition, awkward sentence construction (“Some examples are that yesterday I helped my grandpa with cancer, I helped him by putting his bag in the car for him, and I helped him with whatever he needed help with”; “These are some of the ways that you can show + tell people that are appreciated + very important”) weakens the overall effectiveness of the essay. For these reasons, the essay demonstrates a basic writing performance.



→ "Appreciation can be the best gift you receive" my Mom once told me. I agree with her because telling someone that you appreciate them can make them feel better about themselves. Showing appreciation can show them that they aren't worthless, and it could brighten their day.

→ One reason why showing appreciation is good, is because it can show someone that they aren't worthless and they too have a meaning in life. They could be down, and feel like they aren't needed. You can show them that they aren't by showing them some appreciation.

→ Another reason is because it could make their day if your friend is having a rough day, and tell him that you appreciate him and what he does, then he won't feel so left out.

→ My Mom once told me "Appreciation is the best gift you can receive" & I think that can really make you feel good. It is good to show appreciation because it can show that they aren't worthless, and it could really brighten their day.

### Score Point 2

The writer presents the controlling idea that "telling someone that you appreciate them can make them feel better about themselves. Showing appreciation can show them that they aren't worthless, and it could brighten their day." The writer supports the controlling idea by presenting two examples of groups who will feel better about themselves when shown appreciation (people who feel they aren't needed and friends that are having a rough day), but perfunctory transitions ("One reason," "Another reason") and multiple repetitions ("show them that they aren't worthless"; "it could make their day"; "it could really brighten their day") weaken the progression of ideas in the essay. The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer's examples (being appreciative can show someone they are not worthless and make someone's day) do not fully explain how showing appreciation can help a person "feel better about themselves." The writer's general word choice ("showing appreciation is good," "appreciate him and what he does," "It is good to show appreciation") does not contribute to the quality or clarity of this basic writing performance.

## **Score Point 3**

**The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear controlling idea. Most ideas are related to the controlling idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

"While I may have never been told I love you, I've been told I'm appreciated, and to be honest, it made up for it!" -Unknown. You may think that telling someone you appreciate them is just a compliment and nothing more, but you're far from the truth. Showing people you appreciate them can be important because it can change the person, and can make them happy.

Showing someone you appreciate them is beneficial because it can change how they live. For example, in the show *The Last O.G.*, Lucas is released from prison after 15 years and finds out he has children (named Marsha and Hector). Lucas starts hanging out with them, leading Marsha and Hector to appreciate him. This causes Lucas to help out others and starts being a good role model for his children. All in all, since the children appreciated Lucas, this led him to change how he lived.

Another reason showing someone that you appreciate them is important is because it can make them happy. Using the same example as before, Lucas was in depression as soon as he got out from prison. It was only once that Marsha and Hector told him how much they appreciated him that Lucas started his journey to happiness. In the end, this shows how showing someone you appreciate can change their mood.

In conclusion, appreciation is something that can change a person in many ways whether it be in their lifestyle or their mood. It's something that many times people take for granted. Now I pass the question to you. Why do you think appreciating someone is important?

### Score Point 3

In this response the writer offers the clear controlling idea that "Showing people you appreciate them can be important because it can change the person, and can make them happy." The writer uses a cause-effect organizational structure to demonstrate the positive effects of being shown appreciation (being shown appreciation influences a former inmate to become a good role model and begin his "Journey to happiness"). The writer's sentence-to-sentence connections ("Lucas starts hanging out with [his children], leading Marsha and Hector to appreciate him. This causes Lucas to help out others and starts being a good role model for his children") sufficiently support the idea that showing appreciation has a positive impact on others. The writer's single example about how Lucas becomes a good role model for his children and overcomes depression is sufficient to explain how feeling appreciated can elicit transformation. Specific details ("led [Lucas] to change how he lived"; "can change their mood"; "people take for granted") add some substance to the essay by reinforcing the idea that acts of appreciation are not "Just a compliment." Clear and specific word choice ("beneficial," "role model," "depression," "Journey to happiness") illustrates the importance of being shown appreciation. Varied and adequately controlled sentences ("You may think that telling someone you appreciate them is just a compliment and nothing more, but you're far from the truth") contribute to the effectiveness of this satisfactory writing performance.



Showing others that you appreciate them is vital in order to make them aware of your thankfulness. To appreciate means to value something, or be grateful for it. A booming seventy-four percent of people that feel appreciated continue to do good. How often do you really show your appreciation for the ones around you?

Humans are more likely to do or get nice things for others around them when they feel appreciated. For example, if you were to buy a really expensive gift for a friend, and they just tossed it aside when you gave it to them. Would you want to spend a lot of money on that person again? Probably not, because you feel like they didn't care, and all of the thought that you put into the gift was wasted. Showing appreciation can be as simple as saying thank you or giving them a hug. If you don't appreciate others then you might not have as many wonderful things in your life.

"Appreciation is the key to a happy life." This quote relates to my point because, others are motivated to do good when someone appreciates them. Appreciation is a two way street though. Don't you feel good when someone is grateful for you doing something? This is why I encourage you to show and receive appreciation to be a happy human being.

### Score Point 3

The writer begins with the controlling idea that "Showing others that you appreciate them is vital in order to make them aware of your thankfulness." Although the writer has a minor lapse in focus by presenting two somewhat unrelated ideas (the seventy-four percent statistic in the introduction and the quotation in the last paragraph), they do not significantly affect the overall coherence and unity of the essay. Sentence-to-sentence connections ("Showing appreciation can be as simple as saying thank you or giving them a hug. If you don't appreciate others then you might not have as many wonderful things in your life") support the negative consequences of not reciprocating acts of appreciation. The writer sufficiently develops a hypothetical example about how not being shown appreciation by a friend after giving him/her an expensive gift can cause one to feel as if "all of the thought" that went into presenting the gift "was wasted." Clear and specific word choice ("vital," "be grateful," "just tossed it aside," "the[y] didn't care," "motivated to do good," "happy human being") reinforces the idea that it is important to show "your thankfulness" and for the most part adds to the quality and clarity of this satisfactory writing performance.

Thank you! How sweet! Aww you shouldn't have!! These are the words of thankfulness, and joy. Maybe you have heard these words come out of your own mouth, or have heard it come out of someone else's. Either way it made you feel nice, and loved. Appreciation is an amazing feeling, but if you don't have it, there are consequences. It's that why appreciation is important? Well here are some of the reasons why appreciation is important.

To start off with, picture this, you are walking with your best friend along the dark sidewalks of your town, when suddenly your friend pulls out a purple and red polka dot box, with a gold ribbon that reflects the light of the sun. In it is that jacket that you were looking at through the glass windows for over a month at. You quickly hug your friend repeatedly saying "Thank you!" "Thank you!" Then you ask "What is this for?" which your friend says with a calm, but sincere tone "because you deserve it" Wouldn't this make you feel good? I think we both know the answer. Showing appreciation triggers a reaction that makes you feel all warm, and happy inside, which is one of the reasons why being appreciative is important.

Another reason why you should show appreciation is for the down side, if you don't. Humans have a need to be wanted, and if we don't feel it, then we won't be happy. For example, think about a time where you put a lot of thought into something, and nobody noticed! You are continuously waiting for the gratitude when, still nothing happens. Now picture this, it keeps happening over, and over, and over again until... you no longer feel important anymore.

This is why being appreciative of people is important. Without it we don't feel whole, we don't feel like ourselves. In conclusion, appreciation is more than a word in the dictionary, it has real meaning, so pass it on, so that everyone on this planet will feel loved.

### Score Point 3

The writer offers the controlling idea that "Appreciation is an amazing feeling, but if you don't have it, there are consequences." The writer uses a compare-contrast organizing structure to demonstrate the different outcomes of showing and not showing appreciation. Transitions ("To start off with," "Another reason," "This is why being appreciative") for the most part support the flow of the essay and connect the writer's ideas about being appreciative. To develop the ideas of the essay, the writer first presents a hypothetical scenario about surprising an unsuspecting friend with an unexpected gift that leads to one feeling "all warm, and happy inside." The writer then contrasts this positive experience with the "downside" of not feeling appreciated when one's efforts are repeatedly unnoticed. Both examples are sufficiently developed and explain why it is always preferable to give and receive acts of appreciation. The writer's comparison of two different outcomes also reflects some thoughtfulness as it reinforces the idea that when one does not feel appreciated, one does not feel "whole." Clear and specific word choice contrasts the positive aspects of showing appreciation ("hug your friend repeatedly," "triggers a reaction," "all warm, and happy inside") with the negative consequences of not feeling "important anymore" ("continuously waiting for the gratitude," "don't feel whole," "don't feel like ourselves") and establishes a tone appropriate to the expository task in this satisfactory writing performance.

Showing appreciation is like a sewing kit. Both can mend what has been broken, with words, or with thread. Giving appreciation is needed in our everyday lives to show our loved ones how special they are to us.

Every year in February, couples everywhere give gifts to each other to show how much they love and respect each other. The day is called Valentine's day. While most find it unnecessary, others find it is a day of acknowledgment for not only love birds, but family. It is a time to show that you love those in your family, your friends, and your lover.

Like those on Valentine's day, Sam and Dean, from the show Supernatural, are two brothers who show how much they value each other, each episode. Multiple times in the show, the two boys face death, and each time they come back with only minor trauma. Who keeps bringing them back? The other, of course! Without each other, they would go insane, we don't want that! Therefore, every minute they get, they show how the other is so essential in their life.

That is why showing gratitude towards others is valuable. All this makes me realize that without acknowledgment to our loved ones, we may not have them anymore.

### Score Point 3

The writer presents the controlling idea that “Giving appreciation is needed in our everyday lives to show our loved ones how special they are to us.” The progression of ideas is logical and controlled with transitions (“Every year in February,” “Like those on Valentine's day,” “That is why showing gratitude”) that connect the writer's ideas related to the importance of expressing gratitude. Sentence-to-sentence connections (“While most find it unnecessary, others find it is a day of acknowledgment for not only love birds, but family. It is a time to show that you love those in your family, your friends, and your lover”) sufficiently support the idea that showing appreciation allows others to feel special. Specific and appropriate examples (Valentine's day is a day to express our love and appreciation for one another; the characters Sam and Dean from the television show Supernatural protect and appreciate each other) sufficiently develop the idea that words and acts of appreciation are necessary to communicate to loved ones “how special they are to us.” The essay reflects some thoughtfulness as the writer connects ideas using a simile about a sewing kit (“Showing appreciation is like a sewing kit. Both can mend what has been broken”). Clear and specific word choice (“a day of acknowledgment,” “essential,” “valuable”) contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay. Varied and adequately controlled sentences (“Multiple times in the show, the two boys face death, and each time they come back with only minor trauma. Who keeps bringing them back? The other, of course!”) contribute to the effectiveness of this satisfactory writing performance.



## **Score Point 4**

**The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear controlling idea. All ideas are strongly related to the controlling idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer's train of thought easy to follow.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.

Sal was down the entire day for the simplest reasons. She opened the door for Ron, and he didn't say, "Thank you." Julian dropped her binders, which spewed papers in every direction. When Sal helped, she didn't say, "Thank you." Something as simple as this had ruined her day. Appreciating people for the things they do is vital to any relationship. Showing people appreciation can help in getting friends and making others feel better.

Showing appreciation can help to get more friends. In Percy Jackson: The Titan's Curse, Percy would have never made friends with Thalia Grace, if he hadn't appreciated all of Thalia's talents. Percy showing Thalia appreciation was a good thing, because she later turned out to be an important person. Appreciating someone allows you to build more relationships.

One way to make people feel better is by appreciating them. One day, in Robotics class, my partner was mournful after getting in trouble. So, I decided to do my best to cheer him up. I asked him, "Hey, can you help me with these gears?" He gloomily answered, "Wh-why don't you do them?" He had walked right into my trap. I patiently replied, "Well you're much better at this than I am." My plan had taken effect, and my partner's mood began to improve. By appreciating him, he had set to work on those complex gears. By appreciating friends, people can improve others' moods.

Appreciation is important because it can change moods and even make friends. People might not think much of appreciation, but a little goes a long way. If everyone was kind enough to appreciate each other, then everyone would have friends.

#### Score Point 4

The writer presents the clear controlling idea that "Showing people appreciation can help in getting friends, and making others feel better." The writer uses a cause-effect structure to organize the essay around the idea that showing appreciation for others can benefit both the giver and the receiver. Strong sentence-to-sentence connections ("My plan had taken effect, and my partner's mood began to improve. By appreciating him, he had set to work on those complex gears") make the writer's train of thought about the positive effect of showing appreciation easy to follow. The writer's specific and well-chosen literary example of how the character Percy Jackson befriends Thalia Grace by showing appreciation for "all of Thalia's talents" shows how one can "build more relationships" by being appreciative of others. A personal anecdote in which the writer sets up a "trap" to cheer up a classmate who was feeling "mournful after getting in trouble" demonstrates how a gesture of appreciation "can improve others' moods." Both examples effectively develop the controlling idea as they fully explain how showing appreciation for others yields mutual rewards. Purposeful and precise word choice ("vital," "mournful," "gloomily answered," "patiently replied," "My plan had taken effect," "a little goes a long way") reinforces the importance of showing appreciation and strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of this accomplished writing performance.

Crash. Bang! BOOM! In a world where no one holds value for each other there is death, hatred, and destruction. Whoosh. Pow! BAM! A place where countries declare war after speaking a sentence to each other, and where all who were friends become enemies. Peace. Joy. Still. By simply showing a little appreciation for someone, we can avoid devastation and change lives all around us.

Showing people they're appreciated is very important in life, it can lead to great opportunities and friendships. Many years ago I met a girl named Christina. She was new to our school, so I decided to sit and talk with her. Christina was a cool person, and we shared many interests. Today we are inseparable best friends. With a little kindness and appreciation, any situation can blossom into a monumental friendship.

Being appreciative can also be beneficial in the long run. In the Series Warriors by Erin Hunter, Bluestar shows appreciation toward Fireheart because she sees value and potential in him. Soon after, Fireheart views Bluestar as a mentor and friend, and he ends up saving her life many times. Even in Bluestar's dying breath, Fireheart repayed her by reuniting Bluestar with her children. Seeing appreciation and value in others is a great asset in life that will never be looked down upon.

Appreciate and respect others, and they will show the same in return. By staying in the world of gratitude and value, we choose to make our lives and the people around us' lives better. Always be thankful.

#### Score Point 4

The writer presents the clear controlling idea that “Showing people they’re appreciated is very important in life, it can lead to great opportunities and friendships.” To organize the ideas of the essay, the writer uses a cause-effect structure to demonstrate how showing appreciation for others can have immediate and long-term effects. Meaningful transitions (“Showing people they’re appreciated is very important in life”; “Being appreciative can also be beneficial”; “Appreciate and respect others”) connect the writer’s ideas about how showing appreciation can be advantageous. Specific and well-chosen anecdotal and literary examples (the writer gains a best friend by being kind to a new student, the character Fireheart from the Warrior Cats book series repays his mentor showing him appreciation) effectively develop the controlling idea and fully explain how “showing a little appreciation” can make a significant impact on someone’s life. Purposeful and precise word choice (“avoid devastation,” “change lives all around us,” “blossom into a monumental friendship,” “views Bluestar as a mentor and friend,” “Fireheart repayed her,” “great asset in life”) illustrates how showing appreciation creates a “world of gratitude and value” and strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of this accomplished writing performance.



Showing appreciation to or for someone is very important. Being appreciative helps to lift other people up and it shows that you care about them.

Showing that you are grateful for someone will lift them up. For example, one day I was having a bad morning. My mom dropped me off at school and it was really cold, which didn't help my attitude get any better. However, while I was walking to the door, this girl in the grade below me was holding it open for me. I was sure to thank her and we walked into the school together. From there my day got better. I realized that a small act of kindness can go a very long way. I also realized that it's super important to show that you are appreciative for the small things, like holding open a door for someone. It will make you feel better and your appreciation will make the other person feel better.

Being appreciative shows that you care. A great example of this is my mom. She works hard at her job all day and then comes home to a messy house, a sink full of dishes, dinner needs to be cooked, the animals need to be checked, and me and my sister need to be picked up from after school practice or get picked up from school. She is always busy and she works hard to keep us in check. I know how tired she is after work, so sometimes I'll help her cook, or if she cooks, then I am sure to show my appreciation for her. Some days when she has work to do when she gets home, I'll walk home from school or practice because my house isn't far and I don't want to interrupt her. I am very grateful for my wonderful mom and I try my best to show that I appreciate and love her.

Appreciation will help others who have helped you. Being appreciative is such an easy thing to do, but it will mean so much to others.

#### Score Point 4

The writer presents the clear controlling idea that “Being appreciative helps to lift other people up and it shows that you care about them.” The writer organizes the response around personal anecdotes (a stranger holding open a door; appreciating a parent’s hard work) that support the controlling idea and create an essay that is unified. The progression of ideas is logical and well controlled as the writer’s strong sentence-to-sentence connections (“My mom dropped me off at school and it was really cold, which didn’t help my attitude get any better. However, while I was walking to the door, this girl in the grade below me was holding it open for me. I was sure to thank her and we walked into the school together. From there my day got better”) enhance the flow of the essay and clearly show how expressing appreciation positively affects others as well as improves well-being. The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses specific details that engage the reader (“it was really cold, which didn’t help my attitude”; “messy house, a sink full of dishes, dinner needs to be cooked, the animals need to be checked”; “I’ll help her cook”; “I’ll walk home from school or practice”; “don’t want to interrupt her”). Sentences are varied and well controlled (“I know how tired she is after work, so sometimes I’ll help her cook, or if she cooks, then I am sure to show my appreciation for her”; “Being appreciative is such an easy thing to do, but it will mean so much to others”), enhancing the effectiveness of this accomplished writing performance.

How would you feel if all of your hard work and time spent for someone went unappreciated? Often times we take things for granted when we should be giving thanks. For example, as a child, I should not disrespect my parents because they have to work long hours to purchase food, clothes, and utilities for the house. Instead, I should thank them for what they do for me. Expressing appreciation and showing gratitude is important because it encourages others and strengthens relationships.

Appreciating others through words or actions can motivate and encourage them to continue putting in a high amount of effort into their work and push through obstacles. I once knew someone who had to film much content for media platforms, and his cameraman/editor worked extremely hard to keep up with the videos. He was kind, humble, and had a great work ethic, so one day his boss surprised him. He was gifted a new car, since his had broken down, and he was overjoyed and inspired to work even harder. Showing others that you notice what they do and that you care creates fuel for them to work through difficult times.

Giving thanks, rather than taking things for granted, can help connect relationships. If one friend is never there for the other, never willing to help, and never realizing what the other does for them, how will that make the other friend feel? There must be a bond in the relationship, neither person can take the other for granted. When one knows that their companion understands their tough work and effort, it can boost their confidence and self-esteem. Displaying appreciation can assist mental health and make a healthier bond.

Overall, expressing appreciation for others is significant for their motivation and confidence as well as strengthening friendships. Showing them that you care and realize just how much they do for you helps how they process things or their state of mind. Gratitude can also help build trust and reliability between friends. We should never take someone for granted because we never know how difficult their work is until we try it ourselves. We must appreciate others because they are unique, there is none like them.

#### Score Point 4

The writer presents the clear controlling idea that “Expressing appreciation and showing gratitude is important because it encourages others and strengthens relationships.” Beginning with a hypothetical question (“How would you feel if all of your hard work and time spent for someone went unappreciated?”), the writer continues with a cause-effect organizational structure to explain the results of showing appreciation: encouraging others and building connected relationships. The progression of ideas is logical and well controlled because strong sentence-to-sentence connections (“If one friend is never there for the other, never willing to help, and never realizing what the other does for them, how will that make the other friend feel? There must be a bond in the relationship, neither person can take the other for granted”) clearly connect the writer’s ideas about the reciprocal benefits of showing appreciation. The development of ideas is effective because the writer’s detailed examples (respecting parents for providing “food, clothes, and utilities”; rewarding an employee who is “kind, humble, and [has] a great work ethic”; friends growing closer through mutual appreciation to create “a healthier bond”) add thoughtfulness to the essay. Word choice (“push through obstacles,” “trust and reliability,” “significant for their motivation”) is purposeful and precise. Command of conventions and well-controlled, varied sentences (“He was gifted a new car, since his had broken down, and he was overjoyed and inspired to work even harder”; “Giving thanks, rather than taking things for granted, can help connect relationships”) enhance the effectiveness of this accomplished writing performance.



