

Writing Standards in Action Project Abbreviated Commentary

Abbreviated Commentary consists of the following:

- A student writing sample that illustrates what performance to grade level standards looks like—in action
- General information about the sample
- Massachusetts learning standards met by the sample
- Highlights that describe how the sample meets standards in the *Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy (2017)* and other content frameworks when applicable

Skiing

(This sample comes from a booklet that was produced by the writer's home district, that went through a formal publication process, and that was disseminated to the community.)

Skiing in Colorado is fabulous because there is not a lot of ice. Luckily my family lived there for three years and we learned how to ski together as a group. This will be a memory I will have forever. We had lots of laughs and we have beautiful pictures of my family skiing. When I was five I first tried to ski. It was very hard because I was too cold and I was scared. I had to take a ski class and after my ski class I went skiing with my family. Now I am really good at skiing so I can go on the big mountains. First, I learned how to go on the bunny slope and stop without falling. Then, I learned how to go on the lifts. The lifts are seats that take you to the top of the mountain. Next, I learned how to go on the big mountains and stop without falling. “Finally, I can do it!” I said. “Now I am a SKIER!” In school I am learning about fables and I now know that a fable has a moral and one that I can compare my skiing to is *slow and steady wins the race*. The more I practiced, the better I got at my skiing. Little by little, I became a better skier. My family tells me that I am going skiing over vacation. I am going to New Hampshire. My family will have lots of merry memories on our upcoming trip.

Please note:

Student writing samples may contain inaccuracies in wording and content or shortcomings in the use of standard English conventions.

General Information:

Writing Sample Title: Skiing

Text Type and Purpose: Narrate

Grade level/Content area: Grade 2 English Language Arts

Type of Assignment: Personal Narrative

Standards Addressed: (W.2.3), (W.2.8), (L.2.1), (L.2.2)

Highlights (with brief examples from the student writing sample):

This sample of student work exceeds grade level standards. It demonstrates the following attributes of effective writing. The sample:

- Introduces an enthusiastic first-person narrator (*Skiing in Colorado is fabulous because there is not a lot of ice. Luckily my family lived there for three years and we learned how to ski together as a group. This will be a memory I will have forever.*)
- Establishes a clear situation (*When I was five I first tried to ski. It was very hard because I was too cold and I was scared.*)
- Recounts from experience an event sequence that unfolds naturally (*First, I learned how to go on the bunny slope and stop without falling. Then, I learned how to go on the lifts... Next, I learned how to go on the big mountains and stop without falling. “Finally, I can do it!” I said.*)
- Develops experiences, events, and feelings with effective descriptive details (*It was very hard because I was too cold and I was scared... The lifts are seats that take you to the top of the mountain.*)
- Includes a sense of closure (*My family tells me that I am going skiing over vacation. I am going to New Hampshire. My family will have lots of merry memories on our upcoming trip.*)
- Demonstrates strong command of the conventions of standard English (*First, I learned how to go... “Finally, I can do it!” I said. “Now I am a SKIER!”*)
- Features a variety of sentence types that contributes to the overall effect of the narrative (*We had lots of laughs and we have beautiful pictures of my family*)

skiing. When I was five I first tried to ski... In school I am learning about fables and I now know that a fable has a moral and one that I can compare my skiing to is slow and steady wins the race... I am going to New Hampshire.)