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

Malala Yousafzai

Imagine, there is a girl who believes every child deserves an education. Imagine, there is a girl who believes books and pens are the strongest weapons. Imagine, there is a girl who is forbidden for having this belief. Imagine, there is a girl who was shot in the head for fighting for her beliefs. This girl does exist, and her name is Malala Yousafzai.

Malala was born on July 12, 1997 in Mingora, Pakistan to her parents Ziauddin and TorPekai Yousafzai. Growing up, Malala would always love to learn and go to school. That is why when Malala became older, she would deliver speeches trying to convince people that every child deserves a chance to go to school. Her dedication to fighting for her beliefs got her shot in the head by the Taliban in 2012. But even that never stopped Malala, and she kept on fighting. Malala's brave, determined and inspiring attitude made her a remarkable women's rights activist.

"I am Malala Yousafzai and I am afraid of no one."

These are the brave words of Malala Yousafzai. But she also did multiple other courageous acts proving she is brave. Malala would give speeches in her hometown, telling others why the Taliban were wrong about their idea that girls cannot go to school. The Taliban were a terrorist group who were not afraid to be cruel to others that did not

agree with their opinions. Though, Malala was an individual who did not care about what the Taliban would think of her and want to do to her. Not only did Malala speak out against the Taliban, but she also wrote out against the Taliban. Malala wrote a diary about the horrible living conditions in Pakistan when the Taliban overthrew the Government. Malala would write about how little things such as going to school, going outside, going to sleep became extremely frightening and even dangerous. She began writing her heartfelt diary at age eleven, when no one else had enough courage to do it themselves. Another brave act Malala carried out is she began to receive death threats from the Taliban warning her to stop fighting for womens rights. Although, Malala refused to listen to them and she continued to fight for her dreams. This proves Malala Yousafzai is brave because she knew that defying the Taliban was dangerous and risky. She knew that they would want to kill her. Yet she still continued to fight.

"They can only shoot a body, they cannot shoot my dreams."

These are the determined words of Malala Yousafzai. Malala would speak strong words and carry out powerful acts. For example, Malala was shot in the head, flown to a different country, and fell into a coma. Most people would think that this was the end of Malala Yousafzai and that she would give up trying. But she didn't. Malala continued giving speeches to others and making a difference, even when the Taliban threatened to shoot her again. Also, Malala founded the Malala Fund, an organization dedicated to helping women get the right of education. She started this organization and has received generous donations. This proves Malala Yousafzai is determined because she never gave up on her dream. The dream that every child in every corner of the world will be given an education.

"Malala Day is not my day. It is the day for every boy and every girl who have raised their voice for rights."

These are the inspiring words of Malala Yousafzai. Malala is an inspirational leader for all. For example, there is now a Malala Day on July 12th of every year. This day is meant for celebrating Malala's wonderful work and for all those who have chosen to be like her and raise their voice. Also, Malala was nominated for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, and she won. This proves Malala Yousafzai is inspirational because many people are trying to follow in her footsteps and have recognized her as a leader.

Malala Yousafzai's brave, determined and inspiring attitude has made her a remarkable leader. She will be remembered for getting more children all over the world the education they deserve. I chose Malala Yousafzai because her compelling life story has taught me as well as many others that someone so young can still risk their life to give others what the voice and freedom they deserve.

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: Malala Yousafzai

Text Type and Purpose: Inform/Explain

Grade level/Content area: Grade 5 English Language Arts and Social Studies

Type of Assignment: Biographical Essay

Standards Addressed: (W.5.2), (W.5.9), (RI.5.1), (RI.5.9), (L.5.1), (L.5.3)

Highlights *(with brief examples from the student writing sample)*:
This sample of student work meets grade level standards. It demonstrates the following attributes of effective writing. The sample:

- Introduces the topic effectively with a series of parallel statements *(Imagine, there is a girl who believes every child deserves an education. Imagine, there is a girl who believes books and pens are the strongest weapons. Imagine, there is a girl who is forbidden for having this belief. Imagine, there is a girl who was shot in the head for fighting for her beliefs.)*
- Employs relevant quotations from Malala as section headings to signal logically related units of information *("I am Malala Yousafzai..."; "They can only shoot a body..."; "Malala Day is not my day...")*
- Develops the topic with facts, vivid concrete details, and definitions *(Malala would write about how little things such as going to school, going outside, going to sleep became extremely frightening and even dangerous... Malala was shot in the head, flown to a different country, and fell into a coma... Also, Malala founded the Malala Fund, an organization dedicated to helping women get the right of education.)*
- Includes analysis based on facts, details, and definitions provided by the writer *(This proves Malala Yousafzai is brave because she knew that defying the Taliban was dangerous and risky... This proves Malala Yousafzai is determined because she never gave up on her dream... This proves Malala Yousafzai is inspirational because many people are trying to follow in her footsteps and have recognized her as a leader.)*
- Links ideas within categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses *(That is why... But even that... Also... Not only did Malala speak out... Another brave act... For example...)*
- Provides an effective concluding statement *(I chose Malala Yousafzai because her compelling life story has taught me as well as many others that someone so young can still risk their life to give others what the voice and freedom they deserve.)*
- Features a variety of sentence types that contributes to the overall effect of the essay *(This girl does exist, and her name is Malala Yousafzai... These are the brave words of Malala Yousafzai... Malala continued giving speeches to others and making a difference, even when the Taliban threatened to shoot her again.)*

- Uses words and phrases that express ideas precisely and concisely *(overthrew, defying, determined words, powerful acts, inspirational leader, nominated, compelling life story)*