Opinion, Level G, Proficient at End of 4ᵗʰ to Beginning of 5ᵗʰ Grade

READERS' OPINIONS

Recycling will help save the earth

To the Tribune:

My class is studying about saving the earth. And I bet you didn't know that New York City throws away enough trash each year to fill the Empire State Building.

Well, obviously, we don't live in New York City, but we do throw away a lot more than you probably think. We throw away 80 cans every year, I'm not talking 80 for every family, I'm talking 80 cans for every mother, every father and every child.

Did you know that 2 percent of our trash is miscellaneous. 3 percent is rubber and leather, 6 percent is textiles and wood, 7 percent is plastics, 8 percent is glass, 9 percent is metals, 9 percent is food waste, 20 percent is yard waste and 36 percent is paper and cardboard. So if we recycled papers, cardboard, plastics and glass, we could reuse at least 50 percent of our wastes.

If you're an environmentalist you can probably believe all the garbage we waste, but if you're not, you might be stunned, so you might want to take a breather. If you don't recycle all your paper, all of the chemicals and materials that are in the paper get released into the air and water. And that's just a small part of why our water and air are dirty.

In recognition of these facts I would very much appreciate if as soon as you are finished reading this paper, you would go recycle it, and plant a brand new tree to replace the paper used.
Let's think about what we're doing. When it come to trash, there is no away.
Patricia White, *Cameo Elementary School*

Sample Scoring

Recycling (Argument, Level G2)
Ideas/Content:
1. States claim and supports it
2. Includes background information in the introduction and a thought to take away in the conclusion
3. Not much clear cause/effect

Structure/Organization:
1. Supports with evidence and reasons

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Voice/Point of View:
1. Personality evident
2. Some inner dialogue
3. Writes in 2ⁿᵈ person with "you"

Word Choice/Description:
1. Uses domain-specific vocabulary

Sentence Fluency/Structure:
1. Uses a variety of sentence structures including complex sentences
2. Sentences flow
3. Includes engaging topic sentences

Please Note: When scoring a paper, begin with the middle column, the Proficient level for the month and grade level. As you look at the bullets for Ideas and Content (for example), if the paper seems to fit the description in the Continuum, then decide if it is Proficient at 1 (minimally developed), 2 (adequately developed) or 3 (thoroughly developed). If you find yourself debating over two levels, choose the lower level.

Read the bullets holistically. It is impossible for any instrument to match bullet by bullet for each paper a student might write. If the Proficient column is more advanced, move to the left to the Basic or even Below Basic levels for Ideas and Content. If the Proficient level isn't adequate, then move to the right to the Advanced or Advanced+ levels.

We have only scored 4-5 features as a demonstration. You will likely choose to score different features on different papers according the genre, purpose for writing, or the draft (1ˢᵗ, continuing or final).

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