



# **Grade 7 Writing**

## **Expository Scoring Guide**

**April 2014**

# Grade 7 Writing Expository Prompt



**READ** the information in the box below.

Students at Purdy High School in Missouri decided to work together to create a recycling center. Within four years they had helped improve the environment in their town and raised \$6,000 for school activities and scholarships.



**THINK** carefully about how much people can accomplish when they work together.



**WRITE an essay explaining the importance of working with other people.**

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 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 very awkward or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ☐ The writer has no command of sentence boundaries and/or little or no command of spelling. Serious and persistent errors in capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions may create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

One time I was working with other people.  
Was with my first Middle School football game. As to we set and the locker room get ready for the game putting on our pads and pads into our pants. Tearing up other cleats. the coach said to me that in starting this game at first I was happy then I was like what. So we had out at the field to stretch then we go the goal post to make an entrance. as I rip throw the paper all happy the it was time for the toss to see who get the ball first so. We get the ball first. so I was on the sideline strapping up for the game. My teammate was down at their own 30 yard line so there I was #22 playing running back. looking like Emmitt Smith. so my QB calls a run play. so I get the ball I was supposed to run up the middle but I run to left but I got some yards. But now it was call a pass to me in side of my head I was like why are all these coming to me. but I caught it and the endzone for a touchdown. I just put 7 on the board. so it the 2nd Q. We was up by 14 points so at half team my teammates was like good catch. so we won that game by 21 to 14. Just to let you know I caught a pick at the end of the game for a TD.

#### Score Point 1

The writer of this very limited response tells a story about working with a team during an important football game. A narrative organizational strategy is used, which is inappropriate to the specific demands of the expository task. The essay is ineffective because the details describing each play during the game do not contribute to a controlling idea. In addition, persistent errors in conventions create disruptions in the fluency of the writing.

Accomplish working together  
How I accomplish working together PS  
bad sometimes. Because working together to  
help each other is a good thing. So that  
you can get thing accomplished. I  
accomplish my goals by helping  
others accomplish their goals first  
before I accomplish mine. How I work  
together is by not yelling and screaming  
at the group. The best way to accomplish  
working together is agree with one and  
other to get the job done. I can  
help other work together so we  
can work together as a team. When  
you're working together you get every  
thing accomplished. It's important  
to work together at all times so every  
body can know why we all ways  
work together. So that when everything  
is accomplished you can say every  
body did great on helping each  
other on working together. The  
reason why I like to help work  
together and get every time  
accomplish and get everything done  
more faster and easier.

**Score Point 1**

In this example of a very limited writing performance, the writer attempts to support a weak controlling idea (When you're working together you get everything accomplished). However, repetition and wordiness cause serious disruptions in the essay and inhibit meaningful development.

① Working with other people is a smart way to get know each other. To work with other people, that's when they become your friends.

② When they become your friends, they also hang out with you. They also want to talk about things. Friends are like the best thing to have.

**Score Point 1**

The writer of this response presents a controlling idea (Working with other people is a smart way to get know each other) and uses a cause and effect technique to progress logically from one idea to the next. However, the essay is ineffective because the writer includes a few vague details that do not sufficiently or effectively support the controlling idea.



Working with other people can be like cleaning the community. Work with others like it helps us to keep our community nice and working with others like having a funrasier is help others with money for the school activities or scholarships. When your help out with activities with the school you have a funrasier to get thing for the activities and you neet a lot of stuff. You can help out for the environment in your town cleaning up the town. You can help geting scholarships by having funrasier in. When working with other people is a big head and you can keep your community, environment cleaner.

**Score Point 1**

In this essay the writer provides some examples of ways people can work together. The absence of a functional organizational structure, though, causes the essay to lack clarity and direction. Repetition causes serious disruptions, and the lack of sentence-to-sentence connections results in a random presentation of ideas. The essay is insubstantial because the writer does not develop any idea beyond the stimulus in the prompt. In addition, the writer's limited word choice and serious and persistent conventions errors make this a 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 may be artificial and rely on forced patterns of development. In any case, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a basic 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 may be simplistic, awkward, or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ☐ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Distracting errors may be evident, creating some disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing, but there is evidence of complete sentences and correct spelling.



Well people can accomplish a lot of, when they work in groups its more help. and people finish faster. it can be funner. you can create more things, or think of more things to do. when you are in a group. So people cant handle it they would just play and not finish on time. Some people make friends by working in groups with new people that you havent talked to before. Its good to accomplish stuff because you can learn stuff. or get a good grade. a lot of people think of good ideas to accomplish to help earth, or there family like they would sale stuff to get money to buy what they always wanted. and what I mean about selling stuff like cookies, lemonade, and old things they dont need or want.

**Score Point 2**

The writer lists a number of ways in which people can “accomplish a lot” by working together. The ideas included in the essay are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the controlling idea is weak (Well people can accomplish a lot...). The progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled; the flow of the essay is interrupted by some irrelevant information explaining the reason why some people are unsuccessful at working in groups. The development of ideas is superficial because the writer briefly lists details and examples as support of the controlling idea but does not stop to develop them more fully. Although conventions errors are evident, the writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage.

The importance of working with other people because you have someone to talk to on the job so don't be bored on the job.

While you're on the job you can be able to know the person you are working for, they might have a family, kids they might have done something bad but no one knows.

You can make new friends with the people you work with, and their families most people make friends at work.

While you're working you won't have to work by yourself you will have another person who will help you.

If it is your first day on the job and you don't know what to do someone will help you with it on your first day.

When you have been working there for a long time you may have to teach a new person with it because they might not know the thing that you know and you have to teach him/her and you have to teach them everything you know.

And that is why working with other people is important.

#### Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer lists and attempts to briefly explain ways in which working together is important. Although the ideas are generally related to the specified topic, weak transitions and lack of an effective controlling idea interfere with the focus and coherence of the essay. In addition, the writer's partial command of conventions and general word choice do not contribute to the quality or clarity of the essay.



When you work together a lot of thing happend of working together. You are going to accomplish many things when you are working together if you are going to play like baseball, basketball, football, soccer, lacross all of those sports or music or anything you chose to be that's what's right for you, you are going to chose what you decide to be or if you chose to be a soldier. You see working together is going to make a different in life like for an explain what working together is all about. Let's say that you're in a baseball game the World Series. You are down by 9 and your teammates are thinking "It's over", but you had to keep the team Pump up until you snapped and said "Never back down we are a team we are going to win together". Until you are to bat you hit home run and next thing you know your team hits singles, doubles and came up nine runs and one more run ends this game and you want to know what they did they won the game. team work is important thing never forget that.

### Score Point 2

In this response the writer lists several examples of activities that involve working with other people. However, the somewhat unclear controlling idea (You are going to accomplish many things; Working together is going to make a different in life) interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay. The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical due to the lack of transitions and weak sentence-to-sentence connections. Although the baseball example is specific and appropriate, development overall is superficial since many of the details provided are not appropriate or too briefly presented. Awkwardly constructed sentences, a partial command of sentence boundaries, as well as grammar and usage errors weakens the effectiveness of the essay.

Working with people is important. Because if you can't figure something out, or just need help doing something, then someone can help you do it. Especially if you are tired and have a lot to do.

Having a person there to help is almost considered a need, not a want. Because if you are stressed out, then a second pair of hands can calm you down, and leave you less to do. And the more people there is to help the easier things are.

When you are on a tight timeline, and there is a lot to be done, then you better hope you can find people to help. Because your stress level will go higher than the stars if not. Which is not a good thing because you'll start slowing down and begin to cause more problems.

Things always go smoother with help than not with help. And there's always a point when you need help, because you're tired, and running out of time, and that's when help comes in handy.

Score Point 2

The writer of this basic response includes the weak controlling idea that working with people is important because they can help you. The progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled because repetition (someone can help, find people to help, things always go smoother with help, help comes in handy) causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay and impedes more specific and appropriate development.

## **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 and may engage the reader. The writer's response to the prompt may be original or may connect ideas in interesting ways based on his/her view of the world. In any case, 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 spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create only minor disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.



Working the thing that keeps this world going round. The importance of team work is if one person in the group doesn't get one subject of the assignment another person can get it. Without team work do you think that Steve Jobs would have been able to make the iPhone 4S or any of the Apple products. Team work is world wide people would not be able to watch movies or tv without team work. It's really important to have team work in school because when a problem on your group assignment is hard your team can help you out, and in football you can't just get a touchdown you need a line and their using teamwork to block for you to get the touch down. It's always important to have team work while making a house you need to have at least 100 helpers while making a house you can't do it alone. The world needs team work for every thing it doesn't matter what it is in school, Foot ball, making a house you need team work for it.

### Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer uses the first and final statements of the essay to establish a clear controlling idea focused on explaining how working is “the thing that keeps this world going round.” The ideas are related to the controlling idea and focused on the topic specified in the prompt. Although the writer only minimally develops the ideas in the technology section, the remainder of the response is developed sufficiently with specific and appropriate details and examples that add some substance to the response. The clear word choice demonstrates an awareness of the expository purpose and contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay. While some conventions errors are evident, they create only minor disruptions in the fluency of the writing.

To work with people is the greatest thing to do when working on something important.

Working with others is a pleasure, then working by yourself. The reason that it's so great to work with others is that you get to have fun while you work. Also, you get the job accomplished faster and easier. You also don't get exhausted or frustrated. Also, if you work with other people, then you might get to know them a little better.

If you work by yourself then you might get stuck at work for a while. Then, when you get off work you will be tired and angry. Also, you will get home and take a nap and not in up spending any time with your family. Then, you will have to get again the next morning, and repeat the same exhausted job again with no help. I don't think anybody would like to have a hard time at work.

So just listen to what I have to say, if you want work to go by quick then just let people help you or communicate with other workers and work together!

### Score Point 3

In this thoughtful and engaging response, the writer focuses on the benefits of working with others. The writer uses a compare and contrast organizational strategy to address the advantages of working together and the disadvantages of working alone. The progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, reflecting the writer's view of the world and adding some substance to the essay. Although some conventions errors are evident, they do not affect the clarity of the response. Overall, the essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.



What I think the importance of working together is that you can accomplish more than you think.

I had a project back in fourth grade with this girl I didn't like one bit. We started working on our own and none of our stuff came together soon we decided that we should work together so we did. She looked up things and I typed them on the computer, she looked up pictures and I cut them out and glued them.

Soon after a week we got the grade for our project it was 45, but it was still an A. That's why it's important to have teamwork and have each others help on things because you can achieve a lot and reach your goals and your values.

I'm stating that it's awesome to have teamwork even though you don't like them still do work together and that's what I learned.

### Score Point 3

In this concise essay, the writer uses the first and last paragraphs to provide a clear controlling idea: with teamwork you can accomplish more than you think, even if you don't like your teammate. A relevant narrative example about working on a school project supports the controlling idea. This organizational strategy is adequately suited to the expository task and helps to clarify the writer's position. The details the writer provides are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the response. The result is a satisfactory writing performance.

It's good to work with each other because you can get a lot of stuff done. It's good to work in pairs or in a good fitting group, because everybody pitches in the work, and gets stuff done easily. It's good to work in a group when maybe a project or an assignment is hard. An example of working together is maybe sports, like basketball when you have to pass the ball to your teammates. Or maybe football when you throw the ball to an open catcher. You can maybe work together when you're remodeling or creating a house or business. You need a drawer, supplier and the creators to build it. Without the suppliers, creators, and the teamwork. There would be no way to accomplish anything. Everybody needs teamwork whether it's little things like after cleaning the dishes, someone needs to dry and put them up. Everybody needs teamwork like stacking up shoes on racks to be sold to in stores. Everybody needs teamwork like modeling, building and painting cars. The un-made car(s) goes on a moving platform to start engineering the car and installing parts for transportation and auto mobility; person by person. Working with each other might get you places you've never been in life. Working together is important to get stuff done.

**Score Point 3**

The writer of this satisfactory response provides a clear controlling idea (It's good to work with each other because you can get a lot of stuff done). The writer supports this idea with a number of specific and appropriate examples, adding some substance to the essay and developing it in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task. Word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific, and contributes to the quality of the response.