2008 Practice Portfolio-Gr 12 Annotated

KENTUCKY WRITING PORTFOLIO

Table of Contents

Grade 12

Student Signature Sheet Included and signed (Y) N (Circle One)

Number of pieces	Category/Descriptor	Content area At least **one** piece must come from a content area other than English/language arts	Page
1	*Reflective Writing* (e.g., letter, personal essay)		
	Title: The Essay	English	1
1	*Personal Expressive OR Literary Writing* personal narrative, memoir, personal essay, story, poem, script, play		
	Title: A True Band of Brothers	English	3
1	*Transactive Writing* various authentic genres (forms)		
	Title: Untitled	Social Studies	6
1	*Transactive Writing with an analytical or Technical focus* various authentic genres (forms)		
	Title: The Paper	Newspaper Journalism	7
4	**Total (must equal 4)**		

[ ] **After the Table of Contents has been reviewed for accuracy and completeness *prior* to scoring, the person helping the student complete the portfolio should initial and date in the space provided to the left.**

Student Signature Sheet

(Required in Each Portfolio)

Please read the Note to Students and Teachers below before signing the following statements.

Required Verification Signature
The pieces in this portfolio are my own original work. I am the author of all the pieces in my portfolio. I may have talked about my work (through conferencing) with my teacher, family, and friends, but I have made any changes and corrections myself. I did my own writing, typing, and/or word processing (unless otherwise indicated by a teacher's signature in the box below labeled "IEP/504 Plan/Program Services Plan Adaptations").

_____ _____
Student Signature

IEP/504 Plan/Program Services Plan (LEP) Adaptations (requires teacher signature):

Teacher Signature: _____

Optional Permission
I agree to allow my portfolio to be photocopied for use by others outside my school as an example of student work. I understand that my name, the names of my school and town, and any other identifying information I may have used in my writing will be removed before my portfolio is copied.

_____ _____
Student Signature (optional)

Required Verification Signature: It is required that the work contained in each portfolio is the original work of the student. Every portfolio must include the statement, signed by the student, that the work in the portfolio is his/her original work. This sheet must be placed in the portfolio. If the verification statement is not signed, the portfolio will receive a performance rating of Incomplete.

Optional Permission: The use of actual student portfolios is critical in teacher training and is essential for quality control checks during statewide rescoring activities. Students are requested, but not required, to give permission for this purpose and should sign the optional student signature above if they agree.

Please note that portfolios are included in any statewide rescoring activities even if neither statement is signed.

attempts to establish purpose of reflective entry with quotation

The Essay

"Creativity is a type of learning process where the teacher and pupil are located in the same individual." This is a quote by Arthur Koestler that quite literally explains me. When I was a young boy, merely the age of seven, I was taught all these different rules about how sentences are put together, how to create meaningful leads, and to captivate the reader. For so long I paid attention to these rules, all the while hating to write and forgetting the one thing that makes anything fun, which is creativity.

some imprecise word choice

purpose established relates to creativity; lapses in focus

As I transgressed from the wonderful days of being on the playground to the war that is high school, the rules of writing didn't change. The need for creativity grew like a ravenous monster as the teachers more commonly demanded quality work.

some voice is evident

Unfortunately, the life of a teenager rarely gives room for creativity because schools are focused on meeting the goals of standardized testing. One day while attempting to write my personal piece, *A Band of Brothers,* for the third time in a row, I decided to say "enough is enough" and write whatever came to mind. I finished the piece in five minutes and to this day it remains one of the best pieces I've ever written.

writing shows lapses in focus of "creativity"

writing moves quickly from one idea to the next without sufficient development

After gaining this "Write whatever I want and to heck with the rest" mentality, I turned to script writing. The first script I ever wrote was called *Scott Free, Private Eye.* The script was decently written, so I decided to make it into a movie. The finished product earned me first place in state competition for film.

some effective transitions

In the later years of my high school career, I turned to the fast paced world of the newspaper industry. The genre reminded me a lot about how to structure my work more efficiently. When I first started on the school newspaper I didn't know how to engage the audience well, so I turned to reading the local newspaper for guidance. Murder, mayhem,

Overall word choice is effective

riots on the streets. All right, some local farmers got into a fight over a newborn calf, but the topics of the paper didn't matter. The point is that I noticed how the stories were written differently based on the subject. I began to try and write the same way the professionals did. The result made my write more fundamentally sound in the sense that I began to add more detail and language that drew in readers.

Now, upon completion of high school, I believe I have developed all the correct skills needed to write a proficient portfolio, but more importantly I believe I have developed a love for writing that will carry me to a fantastic career as either a journalist or a novelist.

This piece demonstrates the difference between lapses in focus through idea development and lapses in structure. Lapses in focus are evident throughout, but structurally, the writing flows from paragraph demonstrating logical organization.

Overall, the writing demonstrates control of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and correctness

Title helps indicate purpose

A True Band Of Brothers

attempt to connect with audience in intro. paragraph is not completely successful - weak comparison confuses readers

A great man once told me a story. This story was about two yeast lying in their excrements. They sat together pondering what their purpose was. Little did they know they were making champagne. I was a lot like those yeast, wondering about my purpose, until one day all that changed.

My quest to find purpose began in July of the year 2003. I had never even heard of marching band before that point, yet I was still determined to go through with whatever it brought. That was what I thought, that was, until the second day of band camp when those fateful words were spoken. "We had someone quit yesterday in the tuba section, we need a volunteer to replace him," said Mr. M____. He was the new band director. No one really trusted him yet because of the repercussions of past events with new directors. Now he was asking for a tuba player. I wasn't really paying attention. That's when Andy, one of my sophomore friends, told me to raise my hand so I did. Everyone started to yell in excitement. Mr. M____said with a smug expression "We got ourselves a tuba player."

With a puzzled expression on my face I walked to the band room with fellow freshman, and tuba player, Jeremy. He retrieved a big, black case, which read on the side Case 3. Jeremy opened the case and pulled out two gargantuan pieces of metallic mass and put them together. I picked up the 65-pound instrument and gave a disgusted look. This wasn't going to be fun.

As the week progressed slowly, I began to get to know my fellow section members: Adam, the senior and section leader; Arthur, the sophomore saxophone switch

some errors in usage and correctness

narrative describes events without showing adequate significance through elaboration

over; Jeremy and myself were the freshmen "newbies." I was still having questions about being in marching band at that time and needless to say I was ready to quit by the third day. When I told Mrs. A____, my previous teacher and assistant band director, she had a cow.

some imprecise word choice

" If you're not on this field tomorrow, I'm gong to drive to your house and drag you here by your ears." After that little talk my spirits picked up, for the sake of my ears anyway.

Later that night, Mr. M____ gave us a speech. " I know the problems of the previous years. Your past band directors have all forsaken you and left without a care, but I promise you I'm here to stay. My family just grew from three to a hundred." Many older members of the group were crying. At that point we all put our full trust in him.

some effective transitional elements

Throughout the entirely grueling process of learning our show and learning how to march, I began to realize what our show, "HOPE," meant. I hoped band camp would end, I hoped I'd never have to carry the tuba ever again, and I hoped I could just go home and play my video games. I think I was kind of missing the point.

Organization is logical but there are lapses in coherence.

After a couple months of the repetition of marching, I slowly began get used to the feeling of the extra weight on my shoulders. My calves were as hard as rock and I got a perfect farmer's tan. As competitions came and passed, we gained more trophies to our collection, we began to gain confident in ourselves.

October, the end of the season was at hand. We were at state, the culmination of months of hard work, tears, sweat, and blood. As Mr. M____ gave us our speech of how it doesn't matter if we win or loose, Arthur pointed to the sky and said " Look, an eagle".

We all knew it wasn't really an eagle, but it lifted our spirits and filled our hearts with great pride as we marched onto the field of ____ County High School.

The sun shone directly in our eyes as we played the show of our lives. When we marched off the field every one of us were to the point of exhaustion. We had accomplished what we came to do.

We didn't make finals that night, but I recieved something much better. I finally realized what marching band really was.

It meant trying your hardest even if you fail, it meant caring about everyone and carrying each other through the thick and thin. I found my purpose that night; my purpose was to be a marching eagle.

attempts to apply characteristics of genre through formatting but characteristics of letter to the editor are not evident enough within idea development

October 7, 2005

1400 North Main Street
_____, KY 4_____

Messenger Inquirer
Readers Write
P.O Box 1480
_____, KY 4_____

Dear Editor,

In response to the editorial "____ County does well by Young People," I agree that the drop in teen pregnancies and drug use are good things; but ____ County, as a whole, is not giving their young people a reason to stay as they enter their adult lives..

attempts to establish a purpose

One of the biggest problems with ____ County is that it doesn't have many options for job marketing. ____ County has only one real business venue and that is farming. Unfortunately, in a world such as ours the urge to farm has substantially declined. My own home, for example, has been a farming area for over seventy years, but as time has passed our family has steadily given it up. More than half of the teenage population does not have farming as their career choice. Many of the teenagers I have spoken to are pursuing careers in mathematics, law, or medicine. A lot of students at ____ County High School are gifted with arts and music and will venture forth to pursue careers in those arts, and at the moment ____ County simply does not accommodate the needs of those people.

lapses in focus

word choice is often simplistic

"The best thing we have here is a Wal*Mart," say many of the students and they are right. The county has made little effort to bring big businesses, like Hot Topic, or good restaurants, like White Castle, into B_____ or H_____ Most teens have a large interest in music and movies. If the county were to put up the money to create an auditorium, it would draw interest from those gifted in the arts. If that were to happen more people would come to live here to see independent films or art shows that their friends and families participate in. Also, the bigger population would bring in the big businesses that ____ County so desperately needs.

some idea development is unrelated to established purpose

At this moment, the lack of interest in entertainment is causing the people fresh out of high school to leave as they graduate, with no intent of returning.

I commend the adults of our county for helping teens succeed, but it's now time to look into helping the county grow and develop. My suggestion would be to start out small. Something as simple as building a better movie theater would increase population substantially. I sincerely believe that if the community put forth the same effort in entertainment that they do for their children then this county could become the greatest in the state.

writing drifts from established purpose

Sincerely,
A concerned teen
Class of 2007

Though not without errors, writing demonstrates an overall control of sentence structure, grammar usage, and correctness.

The Paper

In everyday life the media covers stories that seem almost like they could only happen in the movies such a murder trial or a drug bust and every day the reporters work hard to take the information they've aquired and make a story. Many people often never think about it, but the media goes through a lot to get their big scoops. The Paper shows a day in the life of a newspaper reporter. Corruption, greed, and lies fill the everyday life of reporter, Henry, who is played by Michael Keaton, as he tries to please his pregnant wife while also working on the *New York Sun* . When two teenage African American boys are accused of murder, all the newspapers go into a shark-like frenzy to get the big story. However, Henry doesn't believe the young men did the crime (mostly because he found information on a rival editor's desk during a job interview) and tries to get the real story, all the while having a deadline to meet as well as a dinner with his wife and parents.

Another main character is Alicia, played by Glen Close. She is Henry's enemy who tries with all her power to keep Henry from doing what he wants to through printing a false story instead of waiting for the real scoop. She also has her own love endeavors by cheating on her husband and also whining for more money every chance she gets.

Keaton and Close work well together, showing their best hatred for one another on the set. The all star cast also includes Robert Duvall who plays Bernie, a man who fears his upcoming death from cancer and tries to reconcile his differences with his daughter; as well as Randy Quaid who plays MacDougal, the street beat reporter who somehow gets the answers no one else can seem to find.

examples of simplistic word choice

some difficulties with sentence structure

needs more justification / need for writing

attempts to narrow purpose of reviewing a movie

lapses in focus

There is some logic to organization but writing demonstrates lapses in coherence. Some paragraphs could be moved around.

Overall, the writing demonstrates control of grammar and usage though it shows greater difficulty with word choice (more simplistic than acceptable) and correctness.

The 152-minute film is rated R for language, vulgar humor, and violence. The Paper is a good movie for those who have ever been interested in working on a newspaper staff because it shows the basic day in the life of a newspaper reporter while also adding a little theatrical flair. Even for those who don't have an interest in working for a newspaper, The Paper would still be an excellent movie choice because of the great acting skill of a fantastic cast and has many different theatrical elements such as drama, humor, and action. The Paper would make a stupendous addition to any movie collection.

imprecise word choice

.30.

Idea development is not sufficient. Writing does not demonstrate reader's expectations for genre of movie review.