

2008 Portfolio Scoring Training Materials

Grade 7

Training Portfolio
Annotated Version

Adoration of Misfortune

KENTUCKY WRITING PORTFOLIO

Table of Contents

Grade 7

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: Truth and Fiction	English	1
1	Personal Expressive OR Literary Writing personal narrative, memoir, personal essay, story, poem, script, play		
	Title: Adoration of Misfortune	English	7
1	Transactive Writing various authentic genres (forms)		
	Title: The City of Eternal Light	Social Studies	14
3	Total (must equal 3)		

PH
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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").

K. P.
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.

K. P.
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.

Truth and Fiction

As I walked into the room that I was told English class would take place, I first noticed the quotes that lined the walls. Some were by people I recognized, others were by strangers. I slowly sat down in a seat, and looked up at a quote that hung near the clock. It read, "Fiction is truth's older sister. -Rudyard Kipling." That wasn't a name I knew, but I liked the quote. I looked away, yet the words floated around in my mind. What did it mean exactly? How could fiction and truth be siblings, when neither one of them are alike, nor are they actual people? These were the questions I asked myself, before I understood what it did mean. As the year carried on, I began to learn what the quote's

audience awareness
background knowledge

insightful focused purpose

internal transition

words were hinting at. It meant that fiction is like an older version of truth. It is nearly the same as its younger sibling, but oh so different. Fiction is beautiful, not necessarily more mature, but beautiful. It lacks a realistic feel, most times, but still reflects on what truth is.

Truth is beautiful too, but with the blemishes of real life, things are messy and sometimes confusing. This is why truth needs fiction; to escape the reality.

precise word choice

insightful statement

strong audience awareness (detail helps explain purpose)

varied transition

Ever since I have been a child, writing has been my passion. I am constantly

precise word choice

writing new stories, scribbling down ideas and sharing them with my friends. My

literacy connection (writing)

favorite style of writing is fiction. Fiction is a door to another world to me; I can do whatever I want to with it. I know for sure that this older sister is my favorite. This older sister is always there beside of me, looking over my shoulder as I write, smiling warmly. She watches, and often points out my mistakes to remind me that she is not exactly like her younger sister.

reflective idea development

varied transition

I first began to write at a very young age, around two years old. My mother gave

careful organization - purposeful progression from previous paragraph

me a pencil and a piece of paper, and I would wander around, observing things. Then, an idea would strike me, and I would rush to write it down. Of course, I was young, so my handwriting was nothing more than shapes. Either way, I was excited. I ran to show my mother, waving the paper in her face. She would listen to me as I would recite the shapes in the form of a story. Then she would smile, and simply pat my head. I'm sure she thought I was just a tad wrong in the head, but Fiction giggled, while Truth arrived and scoffed.

distinctive voice (conversational tone)

varied transition from previous paragraph

conveys voice

Reading also appealed to me at a young age. I love adventurous, drama filled books, with a dash of charming characters and witty creativity. I'm certain this was why I fell head-over-heels for The Outsiders right away. Ms. H presented the book to us towards the beginning of the year, and most of the class wasn't as excited as I was. Okay, I had never even heard of the book, but I knew it must be good if Ms. H said it was one of her favorites. Fiction and Truth agreed with me.

variety of sentence lengths & types

control of usage to enhance meaning

I felt my excitement and thoughts about the book become truth. As the class read the book together, and then discussed it, I also felt myself become more open. I loved talking about the book, especially Dallas, who was one of the characters in the book. Dallas Winston was described as having an, "elfish face, with high cheek bones and a pointed chin, small, animal teeth, and ears like a lynx." He was also considered, "tougher, colder, and meaner," than the rest of the gang. I always have had a soft spot for the bad guys, and Dally seemed perfect in my eyes. Characters are very important to me, but I'll get into that later. The Outsiders is by far one of the best books out there, and I'd recommend it to anyone. It affected my real life, as well as my writing. I suddenly wanted to share everything I had written, to see if anything could even compare to this

proper vs. common noun

Control of correctness

literacy connections (reading-area of growth)

wonderful book.

varied transition

After The Outsiders, I had the need to share my pieces with the world, but I had to start small. Ms. H. seemed to be perfect for this role. I first sent her a short story I had been working on at home. She apparently loved it, and I was boosted with confidence. It was then I introduced her to my older sister, my Fiction. I began to search through the files on my computer, looking for decent stories to send her. I also started to write more and more, whether I was assigned to or not. Doing this developed two more short stories, one of which I am still working on. Fiction nods with approval, as Truth yawns in the corner, bored with my worlds.

connects to insightful purpose

literacy connecting (reading)

The characters I created while writing are always with me. If I were to compare some of my stories to the older ones, I would see that my characters all have similar personalities. Alexander, my dark, quiet male, is by far one of my favorites to write about. There is also Xavier, who is similar to Alex, only more upbeat and talkative.

specific details

literacy connecting (clearly) analytical idea development (comparing)

Xavier reminds me highly of Dallas from The Outsiders. I believe that's where I got my inspiration for him. They both share the blonde hair, the cold, icy blue eyes that are "hardened with a hatred of the world," and each have a criminal record of their own. Their attitudes are also alike - rough and tough. In my opinion, creating characters is my area of expertise in fiction. I would love nothing more than to sit and write down ideas for characters all day long. Yet, the hard part for me is fishing out places and plots to place these characters in.

use of dash to enhance communication

reflection about self as a writer

It was once said in the words of Donald Murray, that "problems make good subjects," I found this quote on Mrs. H. wall. With this quote in mind, my storylines are often very deep and dark. Having stories that I can add twists and turns to is

↑ insightful idea development 3

always fun, and conflicts are my way of doing this. I also use my characters, most of which have differing personalities. For example, I have Evelyn, who is a snobby New Yorker, and then I have Vance, who is friendly and goofy. These two characters have opposite personalities, and this could also cause problems in the plot. It could also depend on the point of view I write in. I prefer third person, which is like an invisible person watching the plot unfold. However, first person is telling a story in a certain character's point of view. I find it challenging because you have to write everything in that character's point of view, along with their thoughts and feelings. Truth finds that first person is the easiest of them all, while Fiction believes first and second could be equal in quality and challenge.

*reflective
idea development*

*insightful
idea development*

*reflective
idea about self*

The hardest part about coming up with situations to put my characters in isn't coming up with the ideas themselves, but keeping them organized. I will get awesome ideas during school, but never bother to write them down. I just hope I'll remember them when I get home. Despite my hope, this never seems to work out. I'll just remember a tiny bit of the idea, but never the twists that I have added on to it. This is why I've come to realize how important a plot diagram is. A plot diagram is used to plan out the piece I am going to write. I have only used a plot diagram for my portfolio pieces when I was assigned. I never used them on my own; I didn't think they'd make much of a difference.

*maintains
authentic &
insightful
focused purpose
growth as a
writer*

insightful

*specific
details*

But I was certainly wrong.

correct use of a semi-colon

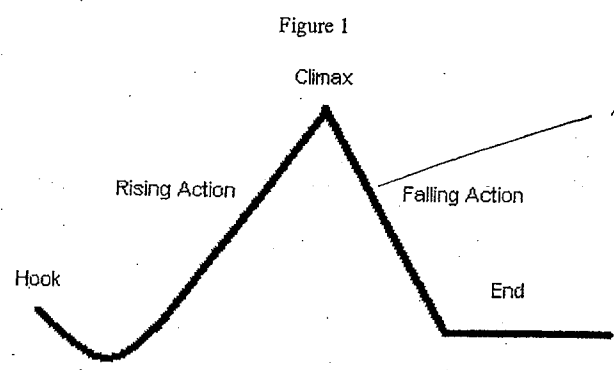
Ms. H explained to our class what a plot diagram was, and we listened to her talk about the many types. One type that stood out to me was the witch's hat. It is drawn as it sounds, like a "V" drawn upside down, as shown in Figure 1. It has one end curly, like a hook, and the other is rather flat. This diagram is used to plot the events in punctuation to enhance communication

specific details - awareness of audience's needs

order that will take place within my narrative. The curly part of the hat is used to plot my hook, or lead, which will be at the beginning of my piece and is used to grab my reader's attention. The line leading up to the tip of the hat is called the raising action. The rising action is the events that happen before the climax. The climax of a story is the most intense part, and will be plotted at the tip of the hat. The line that falls down to the flat end is called the falling action. The falling action is the events that happen after the climax. (Lastly) the flat part is called the denouement, or the ending. I like this plot diagram because it is easy for me to draw and it keeps me on track.

strong audience awareness (detail explanation)

internal transition



support

Another thing Ms. H spoke to us about was snapshots and thoughtshots.

strong audience awareness

Snapshots are pictures in words. Thoughtshots are like snapshots, only you get to see what a character is thinking. I have been told that my snapshots are good, like this one.

claim about self as a writer

"It was a quiet night in the town of Tillswood. Silent, rather." I use sentence fragments to manipulate my readers into feeling they are actually there. Again, like characters, I love

specific details

focused purpose of growth as a writer

creating settings. In one of my short stories, the setting starts in a simple, office-like room. I describe it with the sentence, "The lack of decoration gave the feel of the room a dark, serious taint, and it seemed to blow a chill down the spine of many, even those who simply walked past it." I receive many compliments from Fiction on this line, and for

support

