

Constructed Response Example Essays

Grades 5-6

Essay scores are produced for the following grade ranges: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Thus a fifth grade essay is compared to models for both fifth and sixth grades. Constructed Responses are considered to be those of up to 250 words and are scored on a holistic rubric with 3 possible points.

***Prompt for Essays 1-3:** Norman Rockwell is a well-known artist who recorded everyday American life in his paintings. His painting, "Teacher's Birthday" was painted in 1956. How does this painting help you better understand the way school was at that time? Name three things that are different from your own school experience. Support your answer with specific detail from the painting.*

Constructed Response Draft 1: School in 1956

The painting "Teacher's Birthday" helps me understand because it shows kids and a teacher. Three things that are different are the chalkboard, the teacher's clothes, and the floor.

Holistic (Total) Score: 1

Constructed Response Draft 2: School in 1956

The painting "Teacher's Birthday" helps me understand school in 1965 because it shows kids and a teacher. The first different thing is the chalkboard. We have whiteboards in our classroom instead. The second different thing is the teacher's clothes. My teacher doesn't wear a skirt like that. The third different thing is the floor. We have tile floor instead of wood floor like they had in the painting.

Holistic (Total) Score: 2

Constructed Response Draft 3: School in 1956

The painting "Teacher's Birthday" helps me understand school in 1965 because it shows kids and a teacher from a long time ago. The classroom is very different from my classroom. The first thing that is different in the painting is the chalkboard. We have whiteboards in our classroom instead. Writing with chalk would be kind of fun, but also more messy than a whiteboard. Another thing that is different is the teacher's clothes. My teacher doesn't wear a skirt like that. It looks like she can't have fun with her students. My teacher wears comfortable clothes so she can play with us at recess. But the students wrote happy birthday and put presents on her desk, so she is probably still a good teacher. Also, there are no computers or TVs in the painting. That makes me think

school was boring in 1956 because you would just have to look at books all the time instead of computers. Computers make learning more fun! The painting "Teacher's Birthday" makes me happy to be in my classroom instead of a classroom in 1956.

Holistic (Total) Score: 3