

**Grade 10: Narrative (Example of a “Medium” paper)**

**Title: “Student Council”**

Topic: “If you want a place in the sun, you will have to expect some blisters.” **Tell a true story** about a time when this quote was true for you or someone you know.

**SCORES AND COMMENTARY** (Phrases in **bold** are taken from the *Official Writing Scoring Guide*):

**Ideas and Content: 4** **The writing is clear and focused, and the reader can easily understand the main idea** about running for tenth grade student body president. The writing is characterized by **supporting details that are relevant** but they are not particularly insightful.

**Organization: 4** **Organization is clear and coherent. Order and structure are present** but are somewhat **formulaic**. **Clear sequencing and paragraph breaks** help the reader. The beginning starts out with a general statement and introduces the friend who runs for tenth grade student body president, and the conclusion, like the introduction, refers to the quote from the prompt. **The body is easy to follow with details that fit where placed.**

**Voice: 5** **The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, and there is a sense of “writing to be read.”** **The writer seems to be aware of the reader,** and the reader can discern the writer behind the words. The writing is **expressive** and **sincere** as it retells how Damon ran for office and won by sixteen votes.

**Word Choice: 4** **Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose,** e.g., “endless responsibilities,” “expertise,” and “dirty politics.”

**Sentence Fluency: 4** **The writing flows. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading. The writing is characterized by some repeated patterns of sentence structure, length, and beginnings that detract somewhat from overall impact.**

**Conventions: 4-** **The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions.** The writing is characterized by **correct end-of-sentence punctuation; internal punctuation is sometimes incorrect. Spelling is usually correct** but errors begin to distract the reader. Occasional lapses in correct grammar and usage **are not severe enough to distort meaning or confuse the reader.** Overall, the conventions errors **do not impede readability.**