

# Critical Skills Assignment Answer Key

## Critical Reading and Informative Writing (A)

Starter feedback for correct and incorrect answers is in **blue**. Use or adapt the feedback in this answer key as you grade each student assignment. Many answers will vary. The model answers demonstrate what a complete student response should include, but they do not represent the only correct response to most questions.

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

### *Lacy's Trip to the Lake*

(1) Lacy yawned and flopped backward beside the bulging beach bag on her bed. Her heavy eyelids told her it was way past bedtime. But Renata and Pilar were picking her up for the lake trip early. In the morning she was going to ride in a ski boat! She loved the idea of speeding along on the glistening waves, but she wasn't sure about waterskiing.

(2) "I'll teach you," Renata had said. "You'll love it!"

(3) "Maybe," Lacy had murmured and quickly changed the subject.

(4) Lacy had torn her room apart to find her swimsuit and her favorite towel. Mom wasn't too happy that she had to wash them after Lacy found them wadded up and sour on the floor of the closet. But it wasn't her fault. Could she help it that dumb Robert picked a fight after the last time she'd used them?

(5) Lacy rose and dragged herself into the bathroom. As she smeared paste onto her toothbrush she ran through her mental checklist one more time. Book to read? Sunglasses? Water bottle? Yes. But as she brushed her teeth, she couldn't shake the nagging feeling she was forgetting something. Was that what made her toss in bed most of the night, or something else?

(6) The next morning, Lacy nibbled at her toast

(7) "Eat up," Mom said. "You've got an eventful day ahead."

(8) "I know. We've got a lot planned. But I'm not very hungry."

(9) "You're probably just scared," Robert snipped, mocking her as usual. "Skiing can be very dangerous, you know, especially if you're chicken."

(10) "I'm not," Lacy protested. But she didn't think it was her brother's teasing that was upsetting her. She pushed aside other thoughts and focused again on what she might be forgetting.

(11) "Yeah, right!" Robert said, poking her.

(12) Somewhat annoyed, Mom shooed Robert away just as a horn honked in the drive. Lacy was racing out the door when Mom called her back. "Don't you want your allowance?" she said, slipping some bills into Lacy's hand.

(13) “That’s it!” Lacy said with relief. “I forgot money and I’ll need it for the snack bar when I’m starving.” Then, feeling somewhat ashamed, she grabbed the beach bag she’d nearly forgotten and dashed away, glancing back with a sheepish grin.

(14) At the lake, the morning light made diamonds on the dancing waves as the girls climbed aboard the boat. They sat near the front and dragged their hands in the water while Renata’s dad backed the boat away from the ramp. Then they fished for a while. The boat bobbed whenever another boat passed by. Finally, Renata’s dad got out the skis. “Ready?” Renata asked, strapping on hers. Pilar grabbed some, too. But Lacy shook her head.

(15) Soon Renata and Pilar were taking turns, skimming along in the wake behind the boat. When they waved, Lacy pretended not to see. Instead she closed her eyes and thought about the coolness of the air sweeping back her hair. Renata and Pilar looked like they’d been born on skis. “Maybe another time. I’m too tired,” she said when they coaxed her to take a turn.

(16) But Lacy’s energy returned as soon as Renata’s dad dropped them at the boundary ropes to the swimming area. After side-stroking to the floating dock, Lacy climbed up and strode to the end of the diving board. “Watch!” she yelled before she dove off the board backward. Coach Russ always says to arch my back and point my toes. She loved the way good form made her feel when she sliced into the water. That was something Lacy always tried to remember.

(17) “You make that look easy,” Renata said as Lacy surfaced. Pilar gave her two thumbs up and Lacy grinned back.

(18) The girls ate hotdogs from the snack shack, and then lay down on their towels to rest after their action-packed morning. The water lapped and some gulls cried. A soft wind blew across the water and whispered Lacy to sleep. She dreamed she was preparing to ski but belly-flopped when she forgot to grab the rope. Then Robert appeared and poked her. “See, I knew you were scared!”

(19) “Ow!” Lacy shot awake. Robert’s jab was actually Pilar touching her shoulder. Lacy lifted the strap of her swimsuit away from her angry red skin to see a white stripe beneath. “Ugh.” Now she knew what she’d really forgotten—sunscreen! But the dream had reminded her of something more she needed to face.

Choose answers to multiple choice questions. Type responses to questions that ask you to write a response. Be sure to save your work.

1. Answer the questions about Robert and Lacy.

(a) How does Robert treat Lacy?

- A. He ignores her.
- B. He respects her.
- C. He often gives her helpful advice.
- D. He often makes fun of her.

Teacher feedback: The correct answer is D.

(b) Which phrase from the passage **best** supports the answer in Part (a)?

- A. “You’re probably just scared...”
- B. ...mocking her as usual.
- C. ...Mom shooed Robert away...
- D. “Skiing can be very dangerous, you know...”

Teacher feedback: The correct answer is B.

Score: (2 points – both (a) and (b) must be correct to earn 2 points, if (a) is correct and (b) is incorrect award 1 point, if (a) is incorrect, award 0 points.)

2. Reread Paragraph 13 from the story:

“That’s it!” Lacy said with immediate relief. “I forgot money and I’ll need it for the snack bar when I’m starving.” Then, feeling somewhat ashamed, she grabbed the beach bag she’d nearly forgotten and dashed away, glancing back with a sheepish grin.

(a) What is the meaning of the word *sheepish* as it is used in paragraph 13?

- A. deeply confused
- B. extremely bored
- C. partly guilty
- D. slightly pleased

Teacher feedback: The correct answer is C.

**(b)** Which words from the passage **best** clarifies the meaning of *sheepish*?

- A. very hungry
- B. very dangerous
- C. somewhat annoyed
- D. somewhat ashamed

**Teacher feedback: The correct answer is D.**

**Score: (2 points – both (a) and (b) must be correct to earn 2 points, if (a) is correct and (b) is incorrect award 1 point, if (a) is incorrect, award 0 points.)**

3. Answer the questions about Lacy.

**(a)** Which word best describes one of Lacy’s traits in the story?

- A. caring
- B. unsure
- C. carefree
- D. unhappy

**Teacher feedback: The correct answer is B.**

**(b)** Which sentences from the text support the answer in Part (a)?

Choose **all** answers that are correct.

- A. She loved the idea of speeding along on the glistening waves, but she didn’t know about water skiing. (Paragraph 1)
- B. She loved the way good form made her feel when she sliced into the water. (Paragraph 16)
- C. Could she help it that dumb Robert picked a fight after the last time she’d used them? (Paragraph 4)
- D. “Maybe,” Lacy murmured and changed the subject. (Paragraph 3)

**Teacher feedback: The correct answers are A and D.**

**Score: (2 points – both (a) and (b) must be correct to earn 2 points, if (a) is correct and (b) is incorrect award 1 point, if (a) is incorrect, award 0 points.)**

## 4. Read the sentence from Paragraph 14:

At the lake, the morning light made diamonds on the dancing waves as the girls climbed aboard the boat.

What do the underlined words mean?

- A. The morning light shone on calm water.
- B. Moving water caused jewels to form.
- C. The morning light showed that the water contained jewels.
- D. The moving water sparkled in the morning light.

**Teacher feedback: The correct answer is D.**

**Score: (1 point)**

## 5. Read the sentences from Paragraph 7:

“Eat up,” Mom said. “You’ve got an eventful day ahead.”

(a) Which word means nearly the same as the underlined word in the sentence?

- A. exciting
- B. tiring
- C. quiet
- D. busy

**Teacher feedback: The correct answer is D.**

(b) Which sentence from the text supports the answer in Part (a)?

- A. The next morning, Lacy nibbled her toast.
- B. But it wasn’t her fault.
- C. “We’ve got a lot planned.”
- D. “But I’m not very hungry.”

**Teacher feedback: The correct answer is C.**

**Score: (2 points – both (a) and (b) must be correct to earn 2 points, if (a) is correct and (b) is incorrect award 1 point, if (a) is incorrect, award 0 points.)**

6. Reread Paragraph 4 from the story:

Lacy had torn her room apart to find her swimsuit and her favorite towel. Mom wasn't too happy that she had to wash them after Lacy found them wadded up and sour on the floor of the closet. But it wasn't her fault. Could she help it that dumb Robert picked a fight after the last time she'd used them?

From the information in Paragraph 4, which statements describe Lacy?  
Choose **all** answers that are correct.

- A.** She does not always take responsibility for her actions.
- B.** She makes messes and expects others to clean up after her.
- C.** She does not like her brother and wants him to get into trouble.
- D.** She is a careless person who often misplaces things.

**Teacher feedback: The correct answers are A and B.**

**Score: (1 point)**

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

### ***The Chair Mistake***

(1) “Mondays are so blah,” Lacy complained, resting her chin on one of her cupped hands.

(2) “I know, right? Especially here in the library,” Pilar whispered back. “But you’d better get busy.” Then she stuck her nose in her book about the brain and continued jotting notes. Some days Pilar drove Lacy up the wall. What a goody goody! Renata was more fun. But she’d gone to the hallway for a drink of water.

(3) At Lacy’s suggestion, the girls had found seats at the computers furthest from the check-out desk. It was a good thing, too. Mrs. Clark, the librarian, was helping Robert in the nonfiction section right then. But she was making the rounds to be sure everyone was keeping busy and using the computers responsibly.

(4) They’d all decided to meet at the library to work on their reports for the health fair. The reports were due in two weeks. Today they were to finish taking notes and begin rough drafts. Lacy wasn’t quite that far. In fact, she’d barely started. Who could blame her with a topic like “Skin, Your Best Friend”? But she’d already sent in the entry form and it was too late to switch.

(5) Lacy shifted her feet, turning her chair around and around. The blinking cursor on the computer nagged her with every spin. But Lacy was too restless to work.

(6) “We need some excitement around here,” she said.

(7) “Mm, hmm,” Pilar replied and kept reading.

(8) Lacy sighed and turned away. Now, Renata had stopped to talk to Mrs. Clark. Renata was glowing and showing her some kind of stretch. Lucky Duck. Renata’s report title was “Keeping Fit and Having Fun.”

(9) Lacy reached for Renata’s chair. Wouldn’t it be funny if she played a little joke on her? Lacy had seen the trick done on TV and the audience had laughed. A good laugh might be just what they needed on this drab Monday. And Renata liked surprises.

(10) “Hey,” Renata said, returning. “Mrs. Clark says I should talk to the yoga teacher at the Y for my report!”

(11) Perfect! Lacy thought. Renata was too lost in thought to notice what was about to happen. Lacy watched and waited until Renata was about to sit. Then she gave her chair a push. But instead of laughing, as Lacy expected, Renata tripped on the rolling chair. She threw out her arms to keep herself from falling. The crack Lacy heard when Renata’s arm hit the work station made Lacy’s stomach twist.

(12) Renata groaned as Lacy and Pilar helped her up. “My wrist hurts.”

(13) Robert was already calling Mom on the cell phone.

(14) “I’m so sorry,” Lacy said. “It was just a joke.”

(15) “A bad one,” snapped Pilar, glaring at her. Renata started to cry.

(16) “What’s going on here?” Mrs. Clark demanded from behind them.

(17) Lacy swallowed hard. “I just wanted a little fun.”

(18) Later, they all waited at the hospital for the results of Renata’s x-rays. Lacy sat with her arms over her head. If ever she wanted to rewind a Monday, this was it

## 7. Answer the questions about Lacy.

(a) How does Lacy change over the course of the story?

- A. Instead of watching others, she decides to mind her own business.
- B. After Renata gets hurt, she realizes she has made a mistake.
- C. Rather than loafing, she decides to use her time more wisely.
- D. Instead of being angry about her topic, she makes the best of it.

Teacher feedback: The correct answer is B.

(b) Which sentence from the story **best** supports the answer in Part (a)?

- A. Then she gave her chair a push.
- B. Wouldn't it be funny if she played a little joke on her?
- C. Lacy watched and waited until Renata was about to sit.
- D. Lacy swallowed hard. "I just wanted a little fun."

Teacher feedback: The correct answer is D.

Score: (2 points – both (a) and (b) must be correct to earn 2 points, if (a) is correct and (b) is incorrect award 1 point, if (a) is incorrect, award 0 points.)

## 8. Read the sentences from Paragraph 8 in the story:

Now, Renata had stopped to talk to Mrs. Clark. Renata was glowing and showing her some kind of stretch. Lucky Duck. Her report title was "Keeping Fit and Having Fun."

Which is the **best** meaning for the underlined words?

- A. sweaty
- B. excited
- C. had light shining on her
- D. full of worry

Teacher feedback: The correct answer is B.

Score: (1 point)

**9. How do Lacy’s feelings about her report topic affect her actions in the library?**

Support your answer with information from the text

**Model Answer**

Lacy does not like her report topic and is too restless to work on the report. Her restlessness leads her to look for excitement but she is disappointed when Pilar takes no interest in her idea. Lacy thinks a good laugh might add excitement and since she knows Renata likes surprises, she decides to push Renata’s chair.

**Score: Award points for specific answers as shown below (for a total of 0–2 points).**

Points	Concept Addressed	Feedback for Student Answers
1	The answer describes Lacy’s feelings about her report and how these feelings affect her actions.	Your answer should describe Lacy’s feelings about her report and how they affect her actions.
1	The answer provides an example from the passage of Lacy’s behavior or actions as a result of her feelings.	Your answer should include an example of Lacy’s actions or behavior as a consequence of her feelings about the report.

**Feedback for completely correct answer:**

Your answer describes how a character’s feelings affect her actions and provides an example from the passage to support your response.

**10. Read the sentences from Paragraph 11 in the story:**

*Perfect! Lacy thought. Renata was too lost in thought to notice what was about to happen.* Lacy watched and waited until Renata was about to sit.

What does this show about Lacy’s plans to trick Renata?  
Support your answer with information from the text.

**Model Answer**

When the text says: “Perfect! Lacy thought. Renata was too lost in thought to notice what was about to happen,” it shows that Lacy is thinking about how Renata is too busy to pay attention to her surroundings and is more likely not to catch on to what Lacy plans to do.

When the text says: “Lacy watched and waited until Renata was about to sit,” it shows that Lacy planned her action on purpose and that pushing the chair was no accident. She was so busy planning her trick that she gave no thought as to how it might affect Renata.

**Score: Award points for specific answers as shown below (for a total of 0–2 points).**

Points	Concept Addressed	Feedback for Student Answers
1	The answer describes Lacy’s intentions about her plan to trick Renata.	Your answer should include what Paragraph 11 shows about Lacy’s plan to trick Renata.
1	The answer provides textual evidence that shows that Lacy’s plan to trick Renata is intentional.	Your answer should include an example from the passage to show information about Lacy’s plan to trick Renata.

**Feedback for completely correct answer:**

Your answer describes what Paragraph 11 shows about Lacy’s plan to trick Renata and provides an example from the passage to support your response.

11. What do you think about Lacy’s actions in “The Chair Mistake.” Do you think she did something wrong? Why or why not? How do your feelings compare to Lacy’s?

Use an example from the story and your own ideas to support your response.

**Model Answer**

I think Lacy was wrong to be so careless and to plan such a mean trick on purpose. Renata was hurt when Lacy pushed the chair and Lacy feels bad about it. I can understand how Lacy might have been jealous of Renata, but that does not mean she could not take time to think before she acted. But Lacy is also young and maybe she will learn from her mistakes.

I know I pushed my brother off a swing once, and I felt so bad when he cut his lip, I never did anything like that again. I know if I played a trick that caused someone to get hurt, I would feel as bad as Lacy did. Lacy played a trick that hurt someone because she wanted excitement. I agree with Lacy that tricks can add excitement and they are sometimes fun, but never if they hurt someone.

**Score: Award points for specific answers as shown below (for a total of 0–3 points).**

Points	Concept Addressed	Feedback for Student Answers
1	The answer contains the student’s opinion about Lacy’s actions.	Your answer should include your opinions about Lacy’s actions.
1	The answer includes language that distinguishes the student’s opinion from Lacy’s opinion about her actions.	Your answer should include how your own opinions compare to Lacy’s about her actions.
1	The answer contains a supporting example from the text to show how the student’s opinion is similar to or different from Lacy’s.	Your answer should include an example from the story and your own ideas to show how the writer’s opinion is similar to or different from Lacy’s.

**Feedback for completely correct answer:**

Your answer describes your own feelings about Lacy's actions, compares them to Lacy's feelings, and supports your response with an example from the story and your ideas.

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

### ***Robert's Journal Entry***

(1) I never can think of stuff to write in this journal. But today there is a lot. I am in the kids' room at the hospital waiting for Mom, Renata, and Renata's mom. Lacy is in here, too. But she won't talk to me. She is in big trouble because she pushed Renata's chair and maybe fractured her arm. The doctor is taking X-rays of it now to see if it is broken. When we came in, the nurses were pushing a lady on a bed. That's when Mom told us to stay put in here and that we'd better have something done in our journals when she gets back. She went into the emergency room with Renata and her mom.

(2) Mom will be proud of me for writing this much, I bet. Lacy hasn't written a word. But I don't know for sure because she is sitting with her back to me and looks a bit like a turtle in its shell. I think she might be crying because I can hear her sniffing. And she just got a tissue out of the box by the TV.

(3) I kind of hope Renata gets a cast so I can write on it. And that Lacy gets grounded for a million years so she learns her lesson.

(4) P.S.

(5) A guy just went by in a wheelchair. He was groaning and holding his face or his head. It was hard to tell because it was covered with a bloody towel. Maybe he had a bike wreck and didn't put on his helmet. Or maybe he was hammering and forgot to wear his safety goggles. That is what my health report is about – "Safety and You." I hope he isn't hurt badly.

**12.** What does Robert think that Lacy feels about her actions toward Renata? What does Lacy do to make Robert think this?

Use two examples from the text to support your answer

### Model Answer

Robert thinks that Lacy is sad and regrets hurting Renata because he can tell that she is crying and using tissues. She also keeps her back toward him and won't talk to him. She seems drawn into herself like a turtle into its shell, which means she is feeling bad and wants to keep herself out of sight.

**Score:** Award points for specific answers as shown below (for a total of 0–3 points).

Points	Concept Addressed	Feedback for Student Answers
1	The answer describes what Robert thinks Lacy feels about her actions toward Renata.	Your answer should include what Robert thinks about Lacy's feelings about her actions toward Renata.
2	The answer provides two examples that show Lacy's actions. (1 point for each example)	Your answer should include information from the passage that shows Lacy's actions.

### Feedback for completely correct answer:

Your answer describes what Robert thinks Lacy feels about her actions toward Renata and provides information from the text to support your response.

**13.** How does Robert feel about Lacy's hurting Renata? Do you agree with his actions in the hospital? Why or why not? How would you act if you were in Robert's place?

Use information from the text to support your answer.

### Model Answer

Robert does not seem sorry for Lacy. He might be happy that she got in trouble and he doesn't seem too worried that Renata got hurt. He is viewing the happenings in the hospital, including the situation with Renata and Lacy, more as entertainment than something to worry about. When he says he hopes Lacy gets grounded for a million years it shows his lack of sympathy for her. When he says he hopes he gets to sign Renata's cast, it shows he is more concerned with himself than her pain.

I think Robert should have been nicer to Lacy and shown more concern for Renata. Everybody makes mistakes and just because he didn't do anything this time, doesn't mean he won't. So he shouldn't act like he is any better than Lacy. Also, he might be hurt some time like Renata, so he needs to act like he wants to be treated.

I would have shown Renata more sympathy and tried to comfort Lacy by telling her we all make mistakes. I would also have asked her to share her feelings about what she did if it would make her feel better.

**Score: Award points for specific answers as shown below (for a total of 0–4 points).**

Points	Concept Addressed	Feedback for Student Answers
1	The answer describes how Robert feels about Lacy's hurting Renata.	Your answer should include how Robert feels about Lacy's hurting Renata.
1	The answer provides information from the text about Robert's feelings.	Your answer should include information from the passage to show how Robert feels.
1	The answer explains why the student agrees or does not agree with Robert's actions in the hospital.	Your answer should include why you do or do not agree with Robert's actions in the hospital.
1	The answer describes how the student would act if the student were in Robert's place.	Your answer should include how you would act if you were in the hospital waiting for Renata with Lacy.

### Feedback for completely correct answer:

Your answer describes how Robert feels about Lacy's hurting Renata, whether or not you agree with Robert's actions, why you agree or don't agree, and how you would act in Robert's place. Your answer uses information from the text to support your response.

14. Answer the questions.

(a) Reread "Lacy's Trip to the Lake" and "The Chair Mistake."

Which statement **best** describes how the plots are similar?

- A.** In both passages, the author shows the main character trying something she is afraid of.

- B.** In both passages, the author shows the main character thinking mostly of herself.
- C.** In both passages, the author shows the main character dealing with bad habits.
- D.** In both passages, the author shows the main character’s reaction to being left out.

**Teacher feedback: The correct answer is B.**

**(b)** Which example from “Lacy’s Trip to the Lake” **best** supports the answer in Part (a)?

- A.** Lacy does not want to go skiing because she might get hurt.
- B.** Lacy only eats toast for breakfast, which makes her feel tired.
- C.** Lacy forgets to take care of her swimsuit, which causes it to be sour.
- D.** Lacy dreams she belly-flops when she forgets to grab the rope while skiing.

**Teacher feedback: The correct answer is A.**

**(c)** Which example from “The Chair Mistake” **best** supports the answer in Part (a)?

- A.** Lacy plans to play a trick which causes Renata to get hurt.
- B.** Lacy wants to include Pilar in her plans.
- C.** Lacy apologizes for hurting Renata after pushing her chair.
- D.** Lacy thinks Renata’s report topic is more interesting than hers.

**Teacher feedback: The correct answer is A.**

**Score: (3 points—(a), (b) (c) must all be correct to earn 3 points, if (a) is correct award 1 point, and then award 1 point for each correct answer for (b) and (c). If (a) is incorrect, award 0 points.)**

**15. You have read three passages by the same author and about the same characters. Choose Lacy, Renata, or Pilar and write a first-person journal entry two or more paragraphs long from that character’s point of view. You may tell about the events in either “The Chair Mistake” or “Lacy’s Trip to the Lake,” or another imagined story that includes details about these characters.**

- (a) Make notes about what you’ve learned about that character in the three passages.
- (b) Using your notes, pretend you are that character. Write your entry using the words *I*, *me*, and *my* to talk about events.
- (c) Tell about events in the order in which they happened.
- (d) Use showing language that tells about how things looked, sounded, smelled, felt, or tasted.
- (e) Be sure to include details of what the character observed and a clear description of the events.
- (f) Use connecting words and order words as you tell your story.
- (g) Include a strong closing statement.

**Score: Use the rubric to evaluate the student’s writing. Award points for each category as shown below (for a total of 12–20 points). Students who do not respond should be given a 0.**

**Teacher feedback: Provide feedback about the student’s writing in each category.**

Category	Level 3 (5 points)	Level 2 (4 points)	Level 1 (3 points)
<b>Purpose and Content</b>	The writing is a narrative in the form of a journal entry. The entry retells the events of “Lacy’s Trip to the Lake,” “The Chair Mistake,” or an imagined story about the same characters. The writing is consistently written in the first-person point of view from the perspective of Lacy, Renata, or Pilar. The writing uses the words <i>I</i> , <i>me</i> , and <i>my</i> . The writing includes details and a clear description of events of what the character observed in either “Lacy’s Trip to the Lake,” “The Chair Mistake,” or an imagined story.	The writing is a narrative in the form of a journal entry. The entry is a retelling of “Lacy’s Trip to the Lake” or “The Chair Mistake” or an imagined story about the same characters. The student pretends to be Renata, Lacy, or Pilar and mostly writes from that character’s point of view, using the words <i>I</i> , <i>me</i> , and <i>my</i> . The narrative includes some details of what the character observed. The narrative includes some description of events.	The writing may not be a narrative in the form of a journal entry. The writing may not retell events from “The Chair Mistake” or “Lacy’s Trip to the Lake” or it may not be an imagined story about the same characters. The writing may not be written in the first-person point of view from the perspective of Renata, Pilar, or Lacy. The writing may not use the words <i>I</i> , <i>me</i> , and <i>my</i> . The narrative may not include details of what the character observed or a description of events.
<b>Structure and Organization</b>	The writing takes the form of a journal entry and follows this form consistently. The writing is at least two paragraphs long. The writing tells about events in the order in which they	The writing takes the form of a journal entry. The journal entry is at least one paragraph long. The journal entry mostly tells about events in the order in which they happened The	The writing may not take the form of a journal entry. The writing may be less than a paragraph long or have no clear paragraphs. The writing may not tell about events in the order in which they

<b>Category</b>	<b>Level 3 (5 points)</b>	<b>Level 2 (4 points)</b>	<b>Level 1 (3 points)</b>
	happened. The writing includes a strong closing statement.	journal entry includes a closing statement.	happened. The writing may not include a closing statement.
<b>Language and Word Choice</b>	The writing uses many examples of showing language to explain how things looked, sounded, smelled, felt, or tasted. The writing consistently uses connecting words between ideas and paragraphs.	The narrative occasionally uses showing language to tell how things looked, sounded, smelled, felt, or tasted. The journal entry mostly uses connecting words between ideas and paragraphs.	The narrative may not use showing language to tell how things looked, sounded, smelled, or tasted. The writing may not use connecting words between ideas and paragraphs, if there are paragraphs.
<b>Grammar and Mechanics</b>	The writing is in standard English. The writing has few if any errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics. The writing has few if any errors in punctuation or spelling. Any errors do not interfere with a reader's understanding.	The writing is mostly in standard English. The writing may contain some errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics. The writing may contain some errors in punctuation or spelling. The errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding.	The writing may not be in standard English. The writing may contain many errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics. The writing may contain many errors in punctuation or spelling. The errors may make it difficult to follow or understand the writing.

**Final Assignment Score: (Total points for assignment out of 50 possible)**