

## **Narrative/Expository Essay Writing Task**

### **Presenting the Task:**

In this writing task, you will write a narrative/expository essay. Your writing will be scored on how well you:

- Organize your ideas;
- Show support for your ideas, using paraphrasing and quotes;
- Clearly state your information; and
- Use appropriate strategies such as transitions, sentence variety, word choice, grammar and mechanics, and your writing format.

### **Writing the Essay:**

Think about all the people who have made a difference in your life. Who has made the biggest impact?

Now write an essay using examples from King's article, any handout/activity/notes, and any personal experiences that you can use to support your ideas on a person who has had a positive impact on your life. Make sure that you explain how this person has impacted you in several instances/situations that might also tie into to what King said in her article.

### **Writing the Narrative/Expository Essay**

Write a Narrative/Expository Essay. Your writing will be scored on how well you:

- Explain to the reader how a person had a positive impact on your life;
- Show specific instances where this person impacted your life in a positive way;
- Develop support for ideas (with references to real life and the original text);
- Use specific quotes and/or paraphrases from your experience and the text; and
- Use appropriate strategies such as organization and descriptive detail, and your grammar and mechanics.

**Brainstorm below and Pre-write on the Pre-Writing Sheet!**

### The Brother That Made a Mark on Life

**(Hook)** Are people greatly influenced by others? Or is it a matter of genetics? Whether it is what people are born with or those that people have relationships with does either way turn into making us obsessed with our idols? **(GDT)** Many people have their role models and want to be just like them. Some folks we adore and have a big impact on us. Celebrities like Deborah King said in her article, "The Impact Celebrities Have on Our Lives," seem to influence us, but there are also those possibly non-famous citizens such as parents, grandparents, or friends that do as well. **(Thesis)** As weird as it sounds, I have set my older brother, Yu, as a major role model in my life because he stays brave during toughest times, he is hardworking, and he can easily prove people who underestimate him wrong.

**(TS)** To begin with, I idolize my brother's bravery for several reasons. **(1<sup>st</sup> Pt.)** First, even at the scariest times, my brother went through them fearlessly which made me want to become formidable myself. **(Ex.)** Yu was brave, but he wasn't very healthy when he was younger. He was a great guy, but had been diagnosed with rare X-linked disease called WAS (Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome). At the same time, he had extreme asthma which caused him to stop breathing suddenly. He had to dash to the emergency room almost every day and the hospital charged money every time. It was hard for him, but he remained dauntless during his multiple operations. He survived that last, dangerous surgery and now he is strong and healthy. He is in college and the WAS has been cured. His trials mirror King's statement that our idols have major influences on us and act as examples (par. 2). What Deborah King stated is similar because I have always wanted that same personality as him, so I try to take risks and be bolder. I want to be as fearless as he was. **(2<sup>nd</sup> Pt.)** Second, in school life, Yu appeared to be the "different" type of student, so he was the target of some bullies, but he has a very outgoing personality which is what influenced me to be that way too. **(Ex.)** My brother emigrated from China so he didn't know how to speak very good English. He felt uncomfortable being in a place where there was no one like him, and he did not enjoy being teased. Luckily, he developed a hilarious sense of humor and a fine sense of courage to make large friends that can stand up for him when he's in need of help. With his personality, he eventually made as many friends as he had in China, so this year I decided to be confident in myself and make many new friends too. Even though the year started slow for me, I eventually made quite a few friends and feel very comfortable at my school. **(CS)** Consequently, Yu has influenced me because of his gallantry during his surgeries and telling everyone that he's an awesome person.

**(TS)** In addition, my diligent brother has impacted me with his determination and technological skills. **(1<sup>st</sup> Pt.)** To start with, Yu used to be very lazy, but he's put on a hardworking attitude and has become extremely smart. **(Ex.)** My brother works hard, but back when my brother was in middle school, he was always laid-back. This all changed in high school when it came close to the time of year in that the high school took the SAT test. When Yu got his result, he realized that he needed to study a lot more. In Sierra College, he now has over 100% in every single subject, and he always drags me over to see his grades with a happy face. Similar to this example Deborah King stated that there are a lot of stories where some idols made poor choices and broke laws, but there are positive contributions they have done too like help feed and take care of the poor (par 15). Thinking about what King said made me realize that brother has inspired me to study and quit being so lazy, and I now have grades almost as good as him. **(2<sup>nd</sup> Pt.)** Moreover, Yu is not only a genius academically, but he is also amazing with computers. **(Ex.)** My brother's love for computers is crazy! He can download almost anything for free and no virus appears. He can help with any problem on that has come up on the computer in an instant. One time, I had trouble with my Power Point because I didn't have the same software as my school did, so my project always got erased. I asked Yu for help and with no problem, he quickly downloaded the software that I needed. This has influenced me to become a big computer geek and learn a lot about technology. **(CS)** In short, I enjoy imitating my brother's skills because he is so intelligent and a computer genius.

**(TS)** Finally, Yu has inspired me with the skills that no one thought he could have because of two points. **(1<sup>st</sup> Pt)** One, my brother may look short, but he is a very athletic person. **(Ex.)** People think that my brother is not very strong, but they are wrong. Yu was once challenged to jump over the hurdles in PE. He leaped over the short hurdles easily, and he was then told to do the highest hurdles. He did them while all the other taller people couldn't. He told me that he still remembered the look on their faces. In Deborah King's article, she said that people are waiting for celebrities to fail (King, par 6). This is similar because the kids who challenged my brother were expecting him to fail, but Yu succeeded and figured out one of his new skills. From what my brother told me about that experience, I have worked on my athletic as well, and my running speed has increased a great deal. **(2<sup>nd</sup> Pt.)** Two, if anyone tries to bully my brother, they will either become good friends with him or go down. **(Ex.)** My brother looked weak when he was younger, but he had bulky and trustworthy friends to defend him. I have seen them before and they are literally six or more feet tall in their sophomore year of high school. Yu gained those friends with his humor and friendliness. He once told me that no one ever picked on him anymore because of his fantastic friends, positive attitude which in turn triggered inspiration in me to go and make as many friends as possible. I actually did, and this year, I have more friends than ever before. **(CS)** Therefore, Yu is an important example for me because he is easily underestimated but is actually a very athletic and cooperative character.

**(RT)** In conclusion, my older brother, Yu, has a critical impact on my life because he has encouraged me to be daring, knowledgeable, and skilled. **(Summary)** All people have certain ones that have influenced them in their lives. Without those people, one could not have their life shaped in a unique way. **(Clincher)** One day, the humans who had an impact on their lives will have an impact on other lives, creating the future generation, so give some recognition to the people who have impacted us.

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1/27/14

C period

## A Lasting Mark

(Hook) Walt Whitman said, “The powerful play of life goes on and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?” In other words, each person must live their lives and try to be a model for others. (GTD) Who is the one that makes an everlasting impact on a person’s life? Some might think it’s their parents who mold them to who they should become while others think it could be their coaches, teachers, or idols because of what they do to make a difference. (Thesis) Mainly my English teacher, Mr. Victor has made a mark on me that allows me to have a different perspective on life by his motivational quotes, his ways of teaching, and his devotion to education.

(Ts) To begin with, my 7<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher has made one of the biggest impacts in my life because of his inspirational ways about life. (1<sup>st</sup> Pt.) First, life lessons and helpful hints from Mr. Victor influence how I live daily. (Ex.) Knowing how to handle situations about day to day problems makes an enormous impact on my life. (Ex.) One day in English, Mr. Victor was talking about how he dropped out of high school and how much harder the work and effort it takes to get back into school actually is. This made me realize that sticking to school and giving it my very best the first time will make a huge impact in the long run. Consequently, I work very hard in school and have maintained all A’s. (2<sup>nd</sup> Pt.) Second, not only does Mr. Victor teach English, he also has awakening quotes that will make me and others stop to think. (Ex.) Videos, poems, and stories with good morals make people think about their decisions and the way they go about their daily life. For example, our class was watching a video about how Africans view us Americans, and they were talking about how we complain about the greatest things that they will possibly never get in their lifetime. Then in the article we read in class “The Impact of Celebrities in Our Lives” by Deborah King she said, “We cannot close ourselves off to information and ignore the fact that millions of people are out there suffering” (par. 16). Together these experiences made me realize how it is similar to us taking for granted how we get upset if we don’t have the new iPhone 5c while people in Africa are dying because they can’t provide water for their families. In turn, I realized that we need to appreciate all the extra things that we have. So, every day I say my own little “Thank you.” (Cs) Therefore, Mr. Victor’s way of looking at our society and words have made an incredible impression on my life.

(Ts) In addition, Mr. Victor’s way of teaching English has made a tremendous effect on my life. (1<sup>st</sup> Pt.) To start with, Mr. Victor makes English a fun and enjoyable subject that will have people on the edge of their seat. (Ex.) Having a teacher that really knows their stuff and can also incorporate humor into it is what makes English fascinating. For example, on the first day that my class had to write an essay and we were all kind of thinking, “Well it’s the first essay he probably won’t grade us that hard.” After we thought that, he told us that he will be grading fairly hard. With that he gave a quick speech about giving 100% at whatever we’re doing whether it was “playing a sport, writing an essay, going to the bathroom, or picking our noses,” and it made us all laugh. From there we knew that we could probably do it with a little effort. Remembering what

King said, "Is there anything missing from your life that you could better use that time to fill" (par. 17) made me think that giving this essay everything I had will help me in the long run, and that this is the only thing I have to do, so I might as well do my best!

Because of this advice that I take to all my classes, I have a 4.0 GPA. (2<sup>nd</sup> Pt.)

Furthermore, Mr. Victor lets people know what he expects and how it should be done which gives us a sense of relief and that we can succeed. (Ex.) Students always leave his class having few if any questions at all, making it easier to complete an assignment.

When we were in his class, he gave us a big assignment called "The Journey Towards Self-Discovery," which seemed pretty confusing at first, but he gave us papers explaining how to do it and how he wanted it done, with examples. With the models and additional directions/notes, this allowed me to fully prepare my PowerPoint presentation and speech while understanding it at the same time. (Cs) In short, Mr. Victor has made a difference in my education because he makes it enjoyable and gives people every reason to pass.

(Ts) Finally, his passion for helping kids accomplish their goals in school makes a huge impact on me and my classmates because he offers opportunities for them to do their best and will push them to their highest potential. (1<sup>st</sup> Pt.) One, Mr. Victor inspires students to their personal best by giving them all the support they could need. (Ex.) When teachers give their students the extra boost they need to succeed, it allows them to have a greater sense of accomplishment. I have gone in to see Mr. Victor on several occasions before school started to get clarification with assignments, writing, and reading, and each time I came away with a clear sense that I knew what I was doing. For example, when we had to write an essay on the "One Thing Important" to us, I went to get help on my support and the essay structure. I saw him during lunch and AR where he gave up his time to help me have the best opportunity to get an A. So, when students in his class don't understand an assignment, he will give them everything plus more that he has to give to make sure the student does their greatest. (2<sup>nd</sup> pt.) Two, he knows when students give 90% on an assignment or 120%, if he doesn't see them trying to push themselves do their best, then he will do the pushing. (Ex.) Having a teacher that wants students to flourish should give the student a sense of pride to show their teacher what they could do. As King wrote, "The stars are out there, big and bright. Let's get the stars rising in ourselves" (par.19), her statement is similar to how Mr. Victor wants us to give our personal best, but it's up to us to push ourselves. For myself, when a teacher gives me everything including handouts and hints to do my best on an assignment, I know they expect nothing but the best. This makes me want to show them what I could do! (Cs) Consequently, Mr. Victor's dedication to teaching is what influences me to reach my ultimate potential.

(RT) In Conclusion, having a teacher that gives me uplifting quotes, a different way to view English, and shows me that he wants students to succeed is what makes Mr. Victor have a great impact on my life. (Summary) "The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called 'truth.'"(Clincher) Sometimes the people we've known for a short amount of time have the biggest impact on our lives, even more than those we've known forever.