

Grade 4- Opinion

Topic: Palo Pinto Elementary

Main Reason 1: Students

Main Reason 2: History

Main Reason 3: Staff

Organization- The essay includes an introduction, three main reasons, and a conclusion. The ideas are easy to follow and a clear focus is evident.

Introduction- The lead uses the technique of an amazing fact. This is followed by a topic sentence that includes the author's main reasons for being proud of their school.

Main Reasons- The main reason sentences are clearly stated.

Feedback for Improvement: The 3rd main reason is combined with the 2nd main reason and is simplistic- "They have a lot of staff."

Suggestion- If space is limited, consider focusing on only 2 main reasons. Otherwise, begin a new paragraph with each new reason. The Main Idea/Reason Sentence Starters provide several options to revise this sentence.

Lessons that support:

Section 2, Lesson 9- Generating Broad Yet Distinct Main Idea/Reasons

Section 2, Lesson 10- Alternatives to Boring, Redundant Main Idea/Reason Sentences

Section 2, Lesson 11- Revising Boring, Redundant Main Idea/Reason Sentences

Section2, Lesson 12- Main Idea Blurbs into Sentences

Elaboration- There is evidence of specific details- "so many different empowering writers...writer's ideas just splash on the paper...received an 'A' from the state" and "strict about the rules...not have a lot of events back then...now we have computers, language arts, and UIL".

Feedback for Improvement: Details with the 3rd main reason are not well elaborated.

Suggestion- Enhance each detail (nurse, lunch ladies, been around for a long time) with the detail generating questions—"What does it 'look' like? and Why is it important?".

Lessons that support:

Section 3, Lesson 4- Writing Sentences Using Detail-Generating Questions

Section 3, Lesson 7- Using Detail-Generating Questions

Word Choice and Sentence Variety- Several phrases show a sense of vivid word choice—"splendid accomplishments...bizarre history...students that will amaze you...writer's ideas just splash on the paper...80 years ago...rules were harsh...will doctor you up in seconds...don't forget about...". This allows the voice and personality of the author to shine.

Feedback for Improvement:

Vocabulary could be further revised through the use of word referents to avoid repetition. (ie. school- educational facility, learning powerhouse, friendly establishment, welcoming institution)

Lesson that supports:

Section 2, Lesson 15- Word Referents

Conclusion- A hypothetical anecdote implies that you will have a good experience when you visit this school. The general restatement of the topic sentence sums up the author's main opinion of the school.

Our school has over 100 kids here!
In Palo Pinto Elementary we have splendid accomplishments,
bizarre history, and terrific staff. There's alot we have
in common with other schools.

Our school has very smart students that come
here to Palo Pinto. There are many students that
will amaze you by how fast they come up with
the answer. We have so many different empowering
writers. The writer's ideas just splash on the
paper! We kids work so hard! We recieved an "A"
from the state. Can't you believe that?!?!?

80 years ago, we had very different
punishments than now. Kids had to get a whippen
just for a love note to someone. Our rules were harsh
decades ago. Many teachers had been really strict
about the rules. Palo Pinto did not have a lot of
events back then. Now we have computers, language
arts, and U.I.L. They have a lot of staff. The
nurse here, will doctor you up in seconds! Don't
forget about the lunch ladies! They prepare healthy
lunches and breakfast everyday. Our great staff
members have been around for a long time.

At this school, our hard working staff/students
will greet you with a hello and welcome each
day. Out of all, many people would rather come
here, than any other school.