

Student Sample # **911KB**  
**Grade 9 Baseline Expository**

***Grade 9 Prompt:***

***Think about classes you have taken and identify one class that is memorable. Write a multiple-paragraph letter to a teacher explaining what made that class unforgettable. (For confidentiality purposes, please do not name the teacher.)***

1 Dear Mr. B\_\_\_\_\_,

2

3 Throughout the years, I have rotated through many different teachers, and learned  
4 many different subjects. Each class has been unique. Some were boring, some were  
5 extremely difficult, and others were a breeze. But one class was so enjoyable and  
6 interesting that I'm confident it will stand out in my mind forever. The glorious school  
7 experience I'm referring to is Ms. G\_\_'s eighth grade block class. What made it so  
8 fantastic was the class atmosphere, the teaching style, and the trips we took.

9

10 First off, Ms. G\_'s class was a nearly perfect match for my learning style. It was  
11 a project-based class, and we created over six posters throughout the year. There was  
12 minimal homework, which may seem a bit unfair, but we were always busy in class. A  
13 majority of our time was spent in the computer lab, where we used engaging, innovative  
14 games to expand our knowledge of the world around us. Another thing I appreciate about  
15 this class is that it taught us real life skills – like how to put together a presentation for an  
16 office – not just frivolous bits of information that we would forget the next day.

17

18 I shall describe to you the simply marvelous atmosphere of Ms. G\_\_s class. It  
19 was relaxed; not stuffy and strict, but fun and forgiving. In Ms. G\_s eyes, there were no  
20 wrong answers, and she strived to unlock everybody's potential. The feel of the room  
21 took the stress out of countless students's days, and made this block class the one people  
22 looked forward to. The "atmosphere" was also quite often filled with the inviting scent of  
23 the warm, fresh-baked cookies that we made once a month.

24

25           There are some images, some conversations, that you know will never leave your  
26 mind. Several of these types of memories were on Ms. G\_\_'s class trips; whether it was  
27 a trek to the library or an all-day adventure at a museum. However, the memories from  
28 one trip burn so brightly in my mind, that I feel it is nessesary to describe it to you.  
29 Every Thursday throughout the entire school year, our class would meet with YMCA  
30 counselors to do what's called Youth and Government, which is a program that teaches  
31 kids all the basics of our state's government: the debating process, how to pass a bill, etc.  
32 At the end of the year we all took a week- long trip to Olympia, our state capitol and had  
33 the privilege of participating in mock debates in the real legislative buildings! We  
34 learned things first-hand, in real world situations. Our class also had the honor of  
35 attending the Governor's ball, where I went on my first date; which went well, thank you  
36 for asking.

37  
38           Clearly you can see that good teaching goes beyond book learning, and  
39 worksheets; it's engaging, memorable and goes outside the classroom into the real world.  
40 Ms. G's classroom and teaching style can serve as a lesson to all teachers: that if you  
41 want students to look forward to the class, and learn a lot, step outside the box.