

Student Sample # **811FT**
Grade 8 Baseline Expository

Grade 8 Prompt:

Life can be full of surprises that have an effect on our lives. Identify a time when you experienced this type of surprise. Write a multiple-paragraph essay to a teacher explaining how the surprise affected your life in either a positive or negative way.

1 Life can be full of surprises. Personally I'd rewrite that sentence to say "can life
2 be full of surprises?" Mine isn't. My life is full of the cliché quotes and experiences that
3 the standard teenager should face. But for the sake of putting words on the page, I'll act
4 surprised. To be honest, the only remotely surprising thing in life is that the American
5 population believes all these random quotes we are fed. Life can be full of surprises; it
6 can if you aren't prepared. My biggest surprise in life is how truly ignorant and careless
7 the American population is.

8
9 To be surprised is to be lacking of preparation for your life's situation. Out of these
10 thousands of essays that will be read, I can bet that 98% of them will describe a new
11 baby, a car crash/tragic accident, or something that doesn't involve being surprised. Now
12 let's think, with six billion people in the world babies are being born every ten seconds.
13 Should someone be shocked at the birth of a child, that someone lacks the basic
14 understanding that one baby is not that special. By all means, be happy, but not shocked.
15 Considering the female just had 9 months of pregnancy you would figure everyone would
16 have noticed by now. I am surprised at how oblivious people remain to obvious things
17 these days.

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19 Then we move on to the careless ignorance Americans possess. Example: car
20 crash caused by a rear end. The driver is surprised they hit someone. Reality says that
21 texting someone led to the accident. Too many citizens are shocked by events following
22 flirting with danger or dancing with the devil. Thousands of car crashes and accidents in
23 general caused by phones and other distractions. Now should someone realize that
24 accident can be prevented, I will not hold this gruesome grudge. However, that remains

impossible as people don't think it will happen to them, and are shocked when it does. I don't think I will ever stop being surprised by dazzling displays of daft dim wit.

Moving on to the last thing that surprises me, I will say I am surprised by astounding lack of common intelligence. Now I don't claim this to be a scholarly scripture of scholastic value, but I can say at least most of it is grammatically correct, and it is understandable. I may have my share of spelling mistakes but I do know my basic English comprehension. Between your and you're, to, two and too, and other simple concepts I can dictate my words properly. I remain speechless to those in their last year of middle school who still can't write. Now I bear no prejudice to those who have english as a second language, who moved from less fortunate areas, or those who have learning disabilities. Unfortunately, I know people who have grown up in this area who have had good strong public schooling for 8 years and still don't understand your and you're. I study challenge math with peers who don't know the times tables up to 10. These are basic ideas. The lack of effort, talking and distractions, and lack of common sense cause these. I hope I am not alone in my surprise at the lack of basic knowledge that so many possess. Yes I may be a nerd: I always take the challenge classes and prefer academic pursuits over video games. I wield wicked words blissfully as my pen giddily glides across paper. But seriously, not knowing that 9 multiplied by 3 is 27 is not rocket science. Considering your job is to judge others ability, I hope you understand my opinion from an at least semi-competent scholars view.

I've saved the peak of my rant for the conclusion. Unlike the standard essay the climax shall remain in the closing moments. How does this affect me? As you've probably noticed it has left me with an extreme dislike for those who don't think and allow themselves to be "surprised" by unsurprising events. But that isn't my point. This surprise is constantly holding me and other students back from reaching their true potential. In class this lack of the common sense forces teachers to move at a pace that suits the extremes from the class, from the best to the worst. The speed of the classes I've taken this year has been a slow crawl, thus taking away my motivation. All this has led me to a boring life lacking true surprise. As you can tell, I am so unsurprised that my entire essay is about being unsurprised.