

Student Sample # **1011ZE**
Grade 10 Baseline Expository

Grade 10 Prompt:

In two years, you will graduate from high school. How would you like to be remembered by your classmates? Write a multiple-paragraph letter to a teacher explaining how you would like to be remembered.

1 Tick tock . . . tick. . . tock. Time is ticking and graduation is nearly here.
2 Excitement is everywhere as the Seniors are preparing for their futures and dreaming
3 more vibrantly of that special day on which they will walk off the stage with the diploma
4 in hand. We all are looking forward to our senior year when we, too, will be so close to
5 our dreams and goals. Yes, graduation is the “beginning of the rest of our lives” but it is
6 also the end of a unique journey. A journey that everyone travels but gains differently
7 from. Graduation is a time to reflect on one’s journey and lives one touches and
8 intertwines with. It is a time to reflect on oneself as a person and how one wants to be
9 remembered by peers. I for one want to be remembered as someone who reached out for
10 others, who worked for peace, and who was strong through difficult situations.

11
12 In school, one often goes through many years without getting to know some
13 classmates, but I try my hardest to reach out to as many peers as I can. I strive to be nice,
14 friendly and lend a hand. I socialize with all different types of people, trying to be a good
15 listener and to be a good friend. People will remember that I cared, understood and
16 helped, instead of just being kind. In 6th grade I met a boy whose parents had abandoned
17 him and he was living with his “semi-abusive” aunt. Students didn’t talk to him because
18 he was different and an introvert. However, my friends and I invited him to our table at
19 lunch and befriended him. I reached out to him and I learned a lot about him and tried to
20 help him and console him when the situation at home worsened. I sincerely befriended
21 him, over looked his differences and made him realize he could still be happy.

22
23 Differences lead to conflict; conflict is the enemy of peace, and I am the preserver
24 of peace. There are very few peace preservers, especially in high school. I work to keep
25 the peace between friends and peers. Stopping fights before they happen is one way to

26 keep the peace. I try to be positive and positively affect others. I am a problem solver
27 who cares too much to let friends fight. I always try to solve the problem before it
28 amplifies. People need to realize that fighting causes drastic consequences and should
29 never be done. Losing a friend, expulsion, and violence are all horrible consequences
30 that negatively affect people and futures. I want my classmates to remember me as one
31 of the few students who never broke hearts – but one who only broke up conflict.

32
33 Along with fights, there are other stressful situations that require much strength to
34 get through. We all have a story, full of desires, achievements, failures and struggles. I
35 have had my share of struggle in these last few months. My journey took a sharp detour
36 when my uncle was diagnosed with a brain tumor near the end of January and after a
37 surgery, went into a coma. He has since then been lying on the nursing home bed
38 struggling with a growing tumor everyday. One can imagine how difficult it is to see a
39 loved one in that condition. The way it affects the family is mind-boggling.
40 Emergencies like this change one's whole lifestyle and way of thinking. At times it gets
41 difficult to stay positive but in the end I have to stay strong. I now have to balance the
42 stress of this school year: grades, volunteer work, financial issues along with the stress of
43 my uncle being sick. But I put on a smile and stay positive and continue to love life.
44 Everyone deals with situations that are overbearing at times, but those times will pass and
45 the strength of overcoming that time will be the souvenir.

46
47 A name is but a name, but personalities are infinitely different. School is a
48 vibrant mixture of different personalities in one place. Everyone is unique and important
49 and should be remembered by the positive and amazing things we stand for. In the
50 future, whatever I may be doing, I hope someone will recall my life journey and
51 remember that I extended a hand of friendship, tried to keep things calm, and kept my
52 head held high through tough times. I want to be remembered as a person who tried to
53 spread positivity through all the lives I encountered.