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EN40SL  
April 23, 2013  
Ms. Smith

I sat down at my piano; the stool creaking as I slid it backwards to make room for my legs. I picked up the first book on top of the pile next to me to begin practising. Propping the book open against the stand I could smell the paper, the muted musky scent mingled with the citrus tang of ~~"Pledge"~~ that my mom had used to dust. I wished my piano wasn't covered with picture frames that needed dusting, surrounding me and watching me as I practised. I was always practising.

The keys felt smooth and familiar, their tone slightly out of tune. Beginning with my scales I practised and practised. I enjoyed scales; the fluid rising and falling of each unique key, each one sounding like a new story. Next I pulled out my pieces, I'd been working on a few of them for seven months and yet they were far from perfection. The possibility of how beautiful they will eventually sound is what drives me to continue practising. I begin, my fingers flutter and trip, catching on sharps and flats as if they were stones in ~~my~~ path. Frustration bubbles up from deep inside, but the smell of gingerbread drifts from the kitchen. I take a break from practising to have a cookie, returning to my stool with the comforting taste of ginger and nutmeg on my tongue.

I know I need to practise more; my exam date is looming over my head. However, as my fingers settle on the keys they find their way to a chord. Not the first notes of the piece in front of me, but my favourite piece, one I learned last year. I feel the shag carpet under my toes as I slip my foot over to the cool brass pedal. I relax my shoulders and let my fingers glide over the keys like a swimmer gliding through ~~water~~. It's muscle memory from all my practising, I feel myself

letting go and allow the music to surround me. "Fluttering Leaves" the piece is called; an image of the golden yellow leaves floating down from our birch tree in ~~September~~, fills my mind.

Suddenly my fingers settle on another chord, the last chord. My favourite piece always brings a sense of calm over me, but today it's mixed with a wonderful exhilaration at having played the piece so effortlessly. To me perfection is not having to concentrate until wrinkles *Love!* form between your eyebrows, but being able to let go and feel the beauty of each note as they come together. That is why I'm always practising, to experience that wonderful sensation again and again.

April 22, 2013  
Amber Fryer

REFLECTING

Explain how one content choice (such as anecdotes, dialogue, quotations, incidents, imagery, examples, statistics, or description) in your written text will capture your audience's interest.

I believe that my description of feeling and emotional will capture my audience's attention. I depicted the sensory feelings with realistic detail to capture the entirety of how it feels to play the piano. Other pianists will be able to relate to my experience and compare it to their own. While I explained the muted smell of paper from my piano books, I also described the feeling of familiar keys under your fingertips. My piano is slightly out of tune, but I depicted the comforting feeling of familiarity that comes with playing your own instrument. My audience will know what I mean, having experienced the nervous sensation that comes with playing on an unfamiliar piano at exams and competitions. As my descriptive piece progresses, I begin to explain my emotions in detail as I truly connect with a piece I know by heart. I describe the wonderful melody of the keys as I played my scales up and down the piano. Pianists would be able to relate my description to their own memories of playing a comfortable scale and not having to concentrate to get through an old piece. I've been playing piano for ten years so I think that my description of practising is quite accurate as I've done plenty of it over the years. Therefore, other pianists as well as piano teachers, would be interested in my descriptive piece because they may have experienced similar emotions and will enjoy relating them to mine. On the other hand, they may have very different opinions and experiences about their years of piano playing. Either way the purpose of my piece is to describe a practise session of mine and express the emotions that are behind my actions. Hopefully my audience will be able to connect and relate to my description, helping them remember the feeling of playing their own favourite piece!

April 21, 2013  
Amber Fryer

## Recording Your Writing Variables

Identify the five writing variables you have chosen for your writing task

Central Idea:

Practising the piano until you're able to play by memory and truly enjoy the piece

Form:

Short story

Purpose:

To describe my experiences of playing the piano and practising to reach perfection.

Public Audience:

Other pianists in the community who I've competed against at festivals or piano teachers in the community.

Context:

My short story would be available on my music blog or on a community website for musicians and teachers.

Explain specific connections among your writing variables.

5 marks

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A short story was very useful to describe my experience with playing the piano because I was able to explain an afternoon of me practising as a story with a shortened plot diagram. A short story allowed me to explain a series of events that occurs in a structured format and I was able to incorporate detailed description into the story. Therefore a short story allowed me to be very descriptive while organizing my thoughts into a tale. I think other pianists would be interested in my short story because they would probably be able to relate to my experience of practising for months to perfect a piece. They would also understand my description of the different senses involved while playing the piano. Piano teachers may also be interested in my story so that they can understand what practising for months feels like from a student's point of view. They may also be interested to know how rewarding it is when one of their students