

What's my favorite place you ask? That's easy! The dock at my grandma and grandpa's house. You can fish, think, or grab a chair and your family and watch the sunset. To most people, it's just a plain old dock. To me it's the opposite.

Although you may get splinters, just sitting down and dangling your feet in the water to me is like paradise. The moment the water touches your toes, you'll never want to leave. To the point where the rainbow like sunset comes into sight, it's like an alarm clock. Fish start jumping and manatees' backs are appearing directly above the water's surface. I feel so blessed that I can experience such a delightful sight!

An activity I very much enjoy doing at the dock is net fishing. After you catch the fish in the net, you put them in a bucket of sea water and watch them swim around. Their sparkly silver scales shine in the sunlight which makes it even more interesting to watch.

The best time of the year to be on the dock is the 4th of July. The bright colored fireworks have a mirror affect on the water. It looks like flashes of color dancing in all directions, taking all the dull color somewhere else. As the loud claps of more fireworks are in action, no fish are in sight. Just the color, sounds, and peacefulness is all you think about. It is truly wonderful.

The worst part is having to leave. It's like the water knows you're leaving and all of a sudden fish start jumping and seagulls glide over the water as a good bye show. That's what puts a smile on my face.

The best part is that you know you can come back tomorrow!

Score Point 4: In this accomplished essay, the writer identifies the dock at his grandparents' house as his favorite place to spend time. The essay is skillfully crafted; the writer thoroughly explains the dock's appeal by using sophisticated descriptions of the sights and his own reactions to these sights. The writer's perceptive insights into why the fish and fireworks are so interesting and wonderful add further substance to the essay. The precise word choice and engaging, informative tone convey the writer's keen awareness of the expository writing task. In addition, purposeful, well-controlled sentences and strong conventions enhance the effectiveness of the essay.

What's my favorite place you ask? The dock at my grandma and grandpa's house. You can fish, think, or sit with your family and watch the sunset.

You may get splinters when you sit down, but to me it is like paradise. When the water touches your toes, you'll never want to leave. When the sunset comes into sight, the fish start jumping and manatees appear above the water's surface. I feel so blessed that I can experience such a sight!

One thing I enjoy doing at the dock is net fishing. After you catch the fish in the net, you put them in a bucket of sea water and watch them swim around.

The best time of the year to be on the dock is the 4th of July. The fireworks are like a mirror on the water. It looks like colors dancing. As the fireworks continue, there are no fish are in sight. Just the color, sounds, and peacefulness is all you think about.

The worst part is having to leave. Just when you're leaving, the fish start jumping and seagulls glide over the water to say good bye. That's what puts a smile on my face.

The best part is that you know you can come back tomorrow!

Score Point 3: In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer selects the dock at his grandparents' house as his favorite place to spend time. The writer's details and examples add some substance to the essay, although some ideas (watching the sunset, watching the fireworks) are more developed than others (fishing). The writer uses sentence-to-sentence connections that are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas. The writer's specific word choice reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.

I have a favorite place. Do you? My favorite place is the dock at my grandma and grandpa's house. You can do a lot of things with your family. You can get splinters when you sit down on the dock, but that's okay. When you put your toes in the water, it's fun. Fish jump out of the water. I really like it! One thing I like is fishing with a net. After you catch the fish in the net, you put them in a bucket and watch them swim around. The best time of the year to be there is the 4th of July. The fireworks have lots of color. The fish don't come out during the fireworks. I don't want to leave. I can't wait to can come back tomorrow!

Score Point 2: In this basic writing performance, the writer selects the dock at his grandparents' house as the special place to spend time. Although the writer maintains an appropriate expository form, the progression of ideas is not always controlled due to the lack of transitions from one idea to the next (sitting on the dock, fishing, fireworks). In addition, the development is superficial because the details are too briefly and partially presented. Overall, these weaknesses reflect the writer's limited understanding of the expository writing task.

What's my favorite place? It's my grandma and grandpas dock. There are things that make it special. How is it special. There are things that make it special.

There are things that make it special for me. I can do lots of stuff I like to fish. I really like it! One time a fish jumped out of the water. I like to fish with a net it's cool!

I like the 4th of July it is fun. I like the fireworks because they are so fun. I like it a lot.

My favorite place is my grandma and grandpas dock. I like to do lots of things there I like to go there. It is fun!

Score Point 4: In this very limited writing performance, the writer identifies the dock at his grandparents' house as his favorite place to spend time. Although the writer maintains an appropriate expository form, the progression of ideas is weak. The lack of logical sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random, unfocused way (shifting from fishing to the 4th of July). The writer's reasons for loving the dock are weakly developed and do not effectively support the central idea. The writer demonstrates limited word choice, with much repetition. In addition, persistent errors in sentence boundaries and conventions create disruptions in the fluency of the writing.