

## Authentic Task #2

- Content Standard I. A. 2: Analyze how power affects the relationships among characters in a text
- Content Standard I. A. 3: Analyze the indirect characterization of characters in a text
- Content Standard I. A. 4: Analyze the motivation of characters in a text
- Content Standard I. E. 2: Employs a pattern of organization in written work
- Content Standard I. E. 4: Analyzes evidence effectively
- Content Standard I. E. 6: Uses appropriate writing formats: formal letter, diary, essay
- Content Standard I. E. 8: Uses a variety of sentence structures avoiding fragments and run-on sentences
- Content Standard I. E. 11: Demonstrates correct grammar, usage, and mechanics

Task: You are Portia, Brutus's wife. You are very concerned about your husband and his recent behavior. You tried to talk to him (Act II scene 1), but he wouldn't discuss his problem with you. He promised he would talk with you later, but you are skeptical. Write a letter to "Dear Abby" briefly describing your relationship with Brutus and asking for advice about how to approach him with your concerns about his current behavior and its impact on your marriage. Be sure to include three of your observations about Brutus and explain why they trouble you.

## Criteria for Portia's letter

- Provides Portia's view of her relationship with Brutus (examples of indirect characterization)
- Describes three specific behaviors/events which concern Portia in detail
- Explains the reasons why Portia is upset by each behavior/event specifically
- Solicits help from "Dear Abby"
- Well organized
- Proper letter format
- Variety of sentence structures
- Free of errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization

Rubric  
Portia's Letter to Dear Abby

| Criteria:                                                                                            | Excellent<br>4-5 Points                                                                | Good<br>2-3 points                                                              | Poor<br>0-1 points                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Content</u><br><br>Provides Portia's view of Brutus's character (indirect characterization)<br>X2 | Multiple examples of indirect characterization to describe Portia's view of Brutus     | Some examples of indirect characterization to describe Portia's view of Brutus  | Few examples of indirect characterization to describe Portia's view of Brutus |
| Describes three specific behaviors/events which concern Portia<br>X2                                 | Three specific and clearly described behaviors/events which concern Portia             | Three behaviors/events mentioned but not thoroughly described                   | Less than three behaviors/events which concern Portia included in the letter  |
| Explains the reasons why Portia is upset by each behavior/event<br>X2                                | Clear and specific explanations for each behavior/event that upset Portia              | Explanations for behaviors/events are present but may be general and/or unclear | Explanations for behavior's/events are incomplete and/or unclear              |
| Requests help from Dear Abby                                                                         | Letter makes a clear request for help from Dear Abby in a creative and interesting way | Letter makes a request for help from Dear Abby                                  | Request for help from Dear Abby is missing or unclear                         |

| Criteria:                                                      | Excellent<br>4-5 points                                                                                               | Good<br>2-3 points                                                                               | Poor<br>0-1 points                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Writing Skills</u>                                          |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                   |
| Uses an effective pattern of organization                      | Clear and effective pattern of organization evident throughout the letter                                             | Pattern of organization is evident, but has some flaws or inconsistencies                        | Weak sense of organization in the letter                                                                                          |
| Follows the correct format for formal letter                   | Correct use of all elements of the formal letter: return address, inside address, greeting, and closing<br>(3 points) | Correct use of most elements of the formal letter, one or two minor flaws possible<br>(2 points) | Incorrect use of two or more elements of the formal letter: return address, inside address, greeting, and/or closing<br>(1 point) |
| Uses a variety of sentence structures                          | Sentence structures are varied and effective                                                                          | Sentences use some variety                                                                       | Sentences use little variety                                                                                                      |
| Demonstrates correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization | No errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization                                                                | A few errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization                                        | Many errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization                                                                          |
|                                                                |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                   |

Comments:

Total \_\_\_\_\_/53