

Authentic Task #3

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 the “Dear Abby” columnist. You have received a letter from Portia about her concerns about Brutus’s recent behavior and its effect on their marriage (a letter from task #2). Write a response to Portia offering your assessment of Brutus’s behavior and detailing your advice as to how she can communicate her concerns with her husband. Be sure to respond to each of Portia’s three concerns specifically and provide a clear plan of action for Portia.

Criteria for Dear Abby’s Response to Portia

- Provides an assessment of Brutus’s current behavior
- Responds to each of Portia’s three observations specifically
- Gives specific advice to Portia about how she can approach Brutus and provides a plan of action
- Well organized
- Proper letter format
- Variety of sentence structures
- Free of errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization

Rubric
Dear Abby's Response to Portia

Criteria:	Excellent 4-5 Points	Good 2-3 points	Poor 0-1 points
<u>Content</u> Provides an assessment of Brutus's current behavior (indirect characterization) X2	Multiple examples of indirect characterization to describe Brutus's current behavior	Some examples of indirect characterization to describe Brutus's current behavior	Few examples of indirect characterization to describe Brutus's current behavior
Responds to Portia's three concerns specifically X2	Clearly described responses to Portia's three concerns	Responses included to Portia's three concerns	Responses to less than three of Portia's concerns
Provides specific advice to Portia and offers a plan of action X2	Clear and specific advice provided, fully described logical plan of action	Advice provided and a plan of action included	Missing advice and/or plan of action

Criteria:	Excellent 4-5 points	Good 2-3 points	Poor 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 (3 points)	Correct use of most elements of the formal letter, one or two minor flaws possible (2 points)	Incorrect use of two or more elements of the formal letter: return address, inside address, greeting, and/or closing (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 _____/48