

Student Sample Paragraphs

Without elaboration:

Everyone has a favorite place that they love to go. My favorite place to go is to the skating rink.

First, I relish going to the skating rink because they always have fun and exciting games for the skaters to participate in. The best part about these games is that you win a prize. For example, you might win a free coke, a free pass to the skating rink, or even tokens for the video games.

With elaborations:

Everyone has a favorite place that they love to go. My favorite place to go is to the skating rink.

First, I relish going to the skating rink because they always have fun and exciting games for the skaters to participate in. The best part about these games is that you win a prize. For example, you might win a free coke, a free pass to the skating rink, or even tokens for the video games. I remember one time especially because I won two free passes to the rink. I was playing my favorite game, four corners. That is where the skaters must stop at one of the corners when the music stops. The D.J. calls out a corner and all of the skaters there must sit down. The last one left is the winner, and that was me! I was so excited. The next day I brought my best friend back with me, and we skated all day, for FREE!

Student Sample Essay

Prompt: Explain your favorite time of the year.

The best time of the year; wonderful presents, decorations, chilly weather, special times. Do any of these ring a bell? These are the things that make Christmas time such a wonderful time of the year.

One of the reasons I adore Christmas time is because of the cheery times. There's listening to heart warming songs like "Jingle Bells", "Frosty the Snowman", and "Silent Night". Decorating the tree is always a special event to me, especially when you are with your closest friends and family. I remember a time when my teacher surprised the class by bringing in a huge Christmas tree. We spent the whole day making ornaments, listening to carols, stringing popcorn, and snacking on hot cider and Christmas treats. This was even more fun than our classroom party.

Secondly, I favor Christmas time because of the cool, chilling weather. I love the feeling of the cool, crisp wind blowing through my hair. When it's cold outside, it just makes the inside of your house feel more cozy. One Christmas I especially remember because it snowed. My brother, my dad, my mom, and I spent all day building a snowman and having snowball fights. Our cheeks were rosy, our hands and feet were numb, and our noses were as red as Rudolph's. When we went inside, we all sat by the fire and drank hot chocolate and laughed about the fights we had in the snow. That was the best Christmas ever.

Finally, Christmas wouldn't be the same without lots of presents. I love trying to guess what's in the wrapped packages. I shake them, smell them, flip and flop them trying to solve the mystery. Once, my mom and dad really tricked me by bringing in a large package that looked like it might be a television. It was in a square package. They wouldn't let me shake it because they said it would break. I thought I know what it was until I opened it! It was an adorable little puppy in a kennel! I couldn't believe they were actually going to let me keep it. That was the surprise of my life!

As you can see, Christmas is my favorite time of the year. It's a time of joy and excitement, as well as surprises. I can't wait until the next one arrives.

Elaborate It! Worksheet

***Complete the following paragraphs with complete, descriptive elaborations or mini-stories. Make sure your anecdote, or mini-story, supports or proves the information in the paragraphs.**

Prompt: Explain your favorite place to go; the beach.

My favorite place to go is to the beach. There's plenty of water, beautiful sand, and lots of treasures to be found.

To begin with, I relish spending time at the beach because I get to play around in the cool refreshing water. It's exhilarating to grab a boogie board and ride the rolling waves. It is also exciting to put on a mask, snorkel, and fins and dive under the water. Sometimes you might see strange sea animals, shells, or even lost treasures. I remember one time while I was diving...

Prompt: Explain one of your jobs or chores; cleaning the yards.

Having a job or chore is something that everyone must do. One of my jobs or chores that I am responsible for is cleaning the yards.

First, when I clean the yards I must rake the leaves. This is difficult for a kid my size because they don't sell rakes that are fit for a kid! Sometimes when I'm raking through a monstrous pile of leaves, it feels like I am wrestling a bear. After raking the leaves into a pile, I must gather them up and haul them off so that they don't blow all over the yard again. This would be a disaster! One time

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