



2010 FCAT WRITING

GRADE 8
EXPOSITORY PROMPT
ANCHOR SET



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction
2	Score Point 1
5	Score Point 2
9	Score Point 3
14	Score Point 4
20	Score Point 5
27	Score Point 6

Introduction

Student papers are scored following administration of the FCAT Writing assessment each February. Prior to each scoring session, members of the Writing Rangefinder Committee (comprised of Florida educators) read student responses and select papers to represent the range of quality allowed within the established criteria for each score point on the rubric. These papers are used to train the readers for the holistic scoring of the FCAT Writing responses. Each anchor set (scoring guide) includes a student response and an annotation to explain why it was assigned a particular score. This provides the basis for developing a common understanding of the scoring criteria. A skilled scoring director and scoring supervisors are responsible for training, assisting, and monitoring readers throughout the training and holistic scoring process. All scoring is monitored by Florida Department of Education staff.

It should be noted that the nature of holistic scoring addresses the writing elements of focus, organization, support, and conventions as an interrelated body of evidence. These elements are not scored separately or analytically. More information about the holistic scoring method and links to the FCAT Writing rubrics are available at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/rubcrepag.asp>.

Structure of Anchor Sets

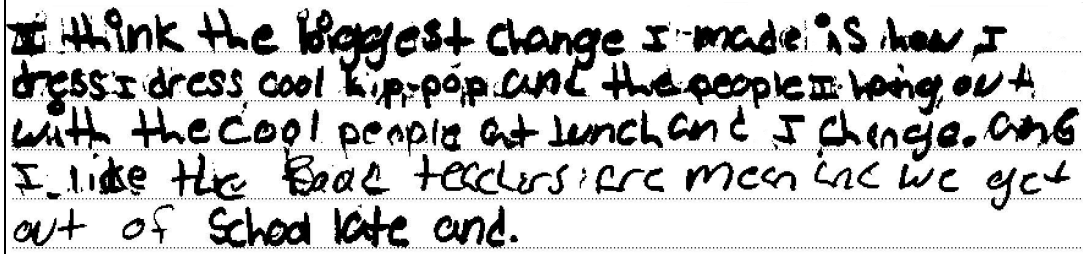
The released 2010 FCAT Writing Anchor Sets for Grades 4, 8, and 10 contain examples of responses used as training materials for the 2010 writing assessment. Personal information has been removed or fictionalized to protect the identity of the writer. For spring 2010, only one type of prompt per grade was administered for FCAT Writing; thus, for each tested grade, one Anchor Set was used.

Description of Prompt for Grade 8: Writing to Explain (Expository)

The Grade 8 expository prompt directed the student to explain the biggest change he or she has experienced from elementary to middle school.

Anchor Paper 1 (Page 1 of 1)

Score Point 1

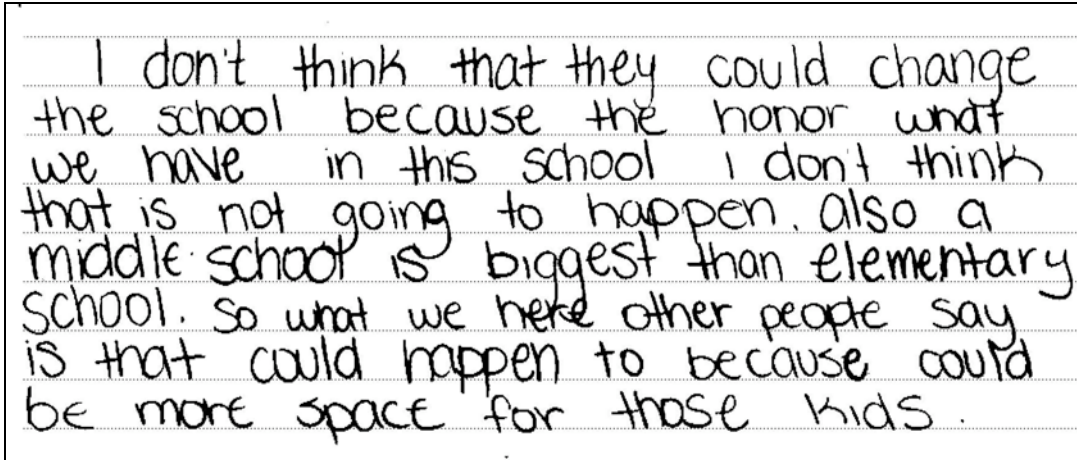


I think the biggest change I made is how I dress. I dress cool hip-hop and the people I hang out with the cool people at lunch and I change. And I like the bad teachers are mean and we get out of school late and.

This response minimally addresses the topic of the biggest change. It is a fragmentary listing of related ideas (*I dress cool hip-pop, I hang out with the cool people, I like the cool teachers, and we get out of school late*). The ideas are vague and are not supported or developed. No organizational pattern is apparent in this brief response. Limited word choice obscures meaning (*dress cool, cool people, cool teachers*). Errors occur in sentence structure and in the basic conventions of mechanics and usage (*and I like the cool teachers are mean and we get out of School late and*). Most words are spelled correctly.

Anchor Paper 2 (Page 1 of 1)

Score Point 1



I don't think that they could change the school because the honor what we have in this school I don't think that is not going to happen. Also a middle school is biggest than elementary school. So what we here other people say is that could happen to because could be more space for those kids.

In this response, the writer only minimally addresses the topic. The paper is a fragmentary and unclear listing of related ideas about changing the school to make more space, rather than about the biggest change. The attempt at support is vague (*because the honor what we have in this school, because could be more space*). The response has no apparent organization. Word choice is limited and inappropriate, obscuring meaning. Errors occur in sentence structure and in the basic conventions of mechanics and usage (*So what we here other people say is that could happen to because could be more space for those kids*).

Anchor Paper 3 (Page 1 of 1)

Score Point 1

My big change from go to Elementary to the end of elementary was exciting for me because I can go to middle school which I like now. Because at first I was excited then I was scared to go to middle school.

Since I went to middle I made a lot of friends and the teachers like me and I like them so much. They teach me like everyones being teached. And I like that a lots.

The End ☺

P.S.
I
Like
School!!!

The writing addresses the topic of the change from elementary to middle school. The attempt at the development of support, however, is limited and vague (*the teachers like me and I like them so much. They teach me like everyones being teached. And I like that a lot*). Little evidence of an organizational pattern is apparent, and vocabulary is repetitive and limited. Errors are made in sentence structure and in the basic conventions of mechanics and usage. Most words are spelled correctly.

Anchor Paper 4 (Page 1 of 1)

Score Point 2

Wow! The biggest change from middle school to elementary was the basketball team. I elementary we didn't have a basketball team all we had was p.e. Basketball is a big change in middle school.

The first reason why basketball is a big change is because you get to play other people from other school. In elementary you can't play other people from other school. Basketball is what most in part in middle school.

This response is generally focused on the addition of a basketball team as the biggest change from elementary school. The writing shows the beginning of an organizational pattern (*WOW! The biggest change, The first reason*). Development of the idea lacks detail and is limited to extending the main idea by comparing and contrasting elementary school and middle school basketball (*I elementary we didn't have a basketball team all we had was p.e. . . . you get to play other people from other school. In elementary you can't play other people*). Word choice is repetitive, and although errors occur in the basic conventions, they do not impede understanding.

Anchor Paper 5 (Page 1 of 1)

Score Point 2

The biggest Change in my life was going from elementary to Middle school. It was a huge step for me in life. - It's like a whole different place when you go to middle school. Because - you have to work for seven teachers instead of one that's twice's more work. The food is better than elementary you get more choices of what you want to eat. There's twice's more students. There's three different principals instead of one each person is assign to each grade. But the most important thing you have to do is be on task because they don't fool around in middle school you have to be Responsible, organized, and stay focused at all times.

This response focuses on the changes in life caused by going from elementary to middle school. Without transitional devices to connect ideas, little evidence of an organizational pattern is demonstrated. Development is limited. Some ideas are supported with extended details (*It's like a whole different place when you go to middle school. Because you have to work for seven teachers instead of one that's twice's more work*). Other ideas are bare (*The food is better than elementary you get more choices of what you want . . . twice's more students . . .*) contributing to the lack of a sense of wholeness. Errors in conventions do not interfere with meaning.

Anchor Paper 6 (Page 1 of 2)

Score Point 2

One of the biggest changes from Elementary School to Middle School, is that there's no "resses"!

The second biggest thing is Middle School hardly has any field trips. Elementary has a lot of field trips in it.

My third reason is that Middle Schools is a lot bigger than Elementary Schools are!

In Middle School we can't talk or draw not even color. But in Elementary School we can.

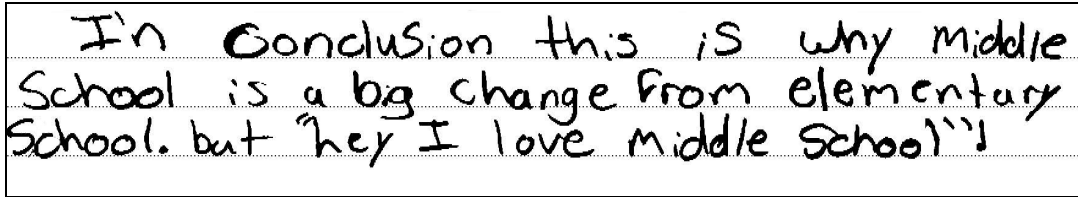
Also in Elementary School we can bring snacks. But in Middle School if we do we get in trouble and get put in ISS.

When I was in Elementary in their P.E system we didn't have to wear uniforms, but in Middle School you gotta

Elementary Schools students aren't allowed to wear make-up. Middle School we can just not a lot!

Anchor Paper 6 (Page 2 of 2)

Score Point 2



In Conclusion this is why middle school is a big change from elementary school. but "hey I love middle school"!

The response is related to the topic, attempting to explain by contrasting differences between middle and elementary school. An organizational pattern is demonstrated, including a brief beginning, some use of transitional words in the middle part (*The second biggest, Also*), and a conclusion. Using this comparative strategy, the writer attempts to explain how differences between schools are a change. Ideas are contrasted but with little, if any, supporting details (*Also in Elementary School we can bring snacks. But in Middle School if we do we get in trouble and get put in ISS*). Word choice is limited, and the writing has little variation in sentence structure (*But in Elementary School, But in Middle School*). Errors occur in the basic conventions of mechanics and usage but do not interfere with meaning.

Anchor Paper 7 (Page 1 of 1)

Score Point 3

The thing about middle school that is so much better than elementary school is that we are treated as young adults and not little kids any more. To me that is something that makes me feel like a part of society and not some messy cute little kid any more. Also another great thing about middle school is that we get the chance to learn the truth about the world around us and I actually like to learn about it for once in my life. Also another thing about middle school is that I like that the whole school is like one big happy family, and when I say that I mean that the middle school has its own football team and when you join a sport for your middle school you have to make a commitment to come to practice and keep your grades so that you can keep playing unlike little league and recreation football.

The writing is focused on the topic, explaining reasons middle school is better (*we are treated as young adults, we get the chance to learn the truth about the world around us, the whole school is like one big happy family*). An organizational pattern has been attempted through the use of simple transitions (*Also another*), but the paper lacks a sense of completeness. The first supporting idea is somewhat developed, explaining how being treated as a young adult makes the student feel. The idea of one big, happy family is also somewhat developed (*when I say that I mean*). Sentence structure sometimes varies. Knowledge of the conventions of mechanics and usage is demonstrated, and commonly used words are spelled correctly.

The biggest change from elementary to the middle school is the way they do things and the classes. And the rules.

To began with, I think the most biggest change for me was coming to the middle school from elementary because in elementary school you only had one or two teachers and one class to go to. Now in middle school you have six teachers and six classes to go to one for each subject. And you have to change classes about every hour.

Next, the way they do things here is different like you only get four passes to go do your personal things like going to the restroom, the office, getting a drink of water and in elementary school you can go do those things as many times you want with a teacher permission now you have to have passes to do all those things.

then, you got the rules the girl and boy can't seat together. And your dress code is different than elementary school. than there the rule that you only got four minutes to get to your next class and if you do not make it there in four minutes you

Anchor Paper 8 (Page 2 of 2)

Score Point 3

have to go to tardy hall and I know it
not fun there. But I never been there
So I really do not know what it is like.

In conclusion those are my reason for
my biggest change from elementary to
middle school I hope you like what you
read.

This response is generally focused on the topic, offering three changes from elementary to middle school (*the way they do things and the classes. And the rules*). The writing is organized with a beginning, middle, and end and uses simple transitions (*To began with, Next, then, In conclusion*). Each change is supported with some detail (*Next, They way they do things here is diffent like you only get four pass to go do your personal things like going to the restroom, the office, getting a drink of water and in elementary school you can go do those things as many times you want with a teacher permission now you have to have passes to do all those things*). Word choice is adequate, and the writer attempts to vary sentence structure. Errors in the conventions of mechanics, usage, and sentence formation do not impede understanding.

The biggest changes I went through was needing to change classrooms. Having a locker. Also needing to get up earlier.

To begin with you need to change classes every 30 or 40 min. In elementary school you stayed in one classroom and learned one subject at a time. In middle school when you hear the bell you need to move to another classroom to learn a different subject its stupid. Also if your late to the other class your tardy!

Don't get me started on lockers. You need to remember a code to get into your own stuff and if your locker gets jamed you are getting a tardy. In elementary you had your stuff next to you or in a little shelf. There is one good thing about having a locker you have a place to put unneeded stuff.

The final thing is you need to wake up earlier. It's thing teens hate because we need to get up and get ready for school. In elementary in the morning we slept till seven or seven fourteen. But now we need to get up at five thirty or six in the morning.

In conclusion, the biggest change I went through when going from elementary to middle school was. Needing to change classrooms. Getting lockers. Also needing to get up earlier.

Anchor Paper 9 (Page 2 of 2)**Score Point 3**

This response is generally focused on explaining the three biggest changes the writer experiences (*needing to change classrooms. Having a locker. Also needing to get up earlier*). An organizational pattern is apparent through the use of some transitions (*To begin with, Don't get me started on lockers, The final thing, To conclude*). Each idea is developed with some detail, although the effectiveness of the contrast between elementary and middle school is erratic (*you need to wake up earlier. It's thing teens hate because we need to get up and get ready for school. In elementary in the morning we slept till seven or seven fourteen. But now we need to get up at five thirty or six in the morning*). Word choice is adequate, though sometimes vague (*In elementary you had your stuff next to you*). An attempt has been made to vary sentence structures. Knowledge of the conventions of mechanics, usage, and spelling is usually demonstrated, and any errors do not impede communication.

Anchor Paper 10 (Page 1 of 2)

Score Point 4

WOOH!! what an improvement i've done. I have changed alot since elementary school. I've become more mature, i don't laugh at silly things. i know how to act right, and i know how to handle my problems. IM proud to be a better person to this day. The Brand New Me!

first; i don't laugh at silly things anymore. i noticed you have to take most things in life very serious. NOT everything is a joke to laugh at. for example if your working at some type of Restraunt and someone slips and fall's by accident you should not laugh because their's a huge possibility you can get fired because that's very rude and imature. And that's not what their looking for.

Second; i know exatchly how to act right; at dinner tables, work, and school. IM old enough now to know what's right from wrong. i know how to carry myself like a young lady that i am. i know the do's and don'ts and i follow them correctly.

In conclusion; i know the right way to handle my problems. if their's a young girl thats trying to push my buttons and get me mad, i'd be proud to

Anchor Paper 10 (Page 2 of 2)

Score Point 4

be the bigger person and walk away or just ignore her. it will deffinately make me look and feel good about myself. because i walked away from a situation that someone else wouldve carried way worse then me. I made myself proud!

finally; NOW YOU KNOW WHY THE biggest change in My life has been maturity. in case you forgot the reasons are; i dont laugh at silly things anymore, i know how to act, and lastly i know the right ways to handle my problems. That was the biggest change FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL to MIDDLE SCHOOL.

The response is generally focused on maturity being the biggest change since entering middle school. The organizational pattern includes predictable but adequate transitional connections between ideas (*first, Second, finally*). Development of the supporting reasons is uneven. In the second paragraph, the writer provides some specifics and an example with details (*i don't laugh at silly things anymore . . . you have to take most thing's in life very serious . . . for example if your working at some type of Restraunt.*). Other areas lack details and are less developed (*I know exatcly how to act right; at dinner tables, work, and school . . . I know the do's and don'ts*). The conclusion, although repeating the introduction, gives a sense of completeness as the writer reconnects the three reasons that maturity is the biggest change (*the biggest change in my life has been maturity. in case you forgot*). Word choice is adequate, and knowledge of conventions is demonstrated. Commonly used words are usually spelled correctly. An attempt has been made to vary sentence structure.

Anchor Paper 11 (Page 1 of 2)

Score Point 4

Going from elementary school to middle school is a big jump for some students. For me the biggest change from elementary school to middle school is having more responsibilities. I have to stay organized, do my work and manage my time so I can get everything done. Personal, I had a hard time changing from elementary school to middle school. So, with change schools and getting other more responsibilities are expected.

The first responsibility given to middle schoolers is staying organized. This was hard for me because up until then I didn't have a locker, and so many books. My locker was always a mess. I would forget my supplies needed for class because they were in my locker. So I would say one of the biggest responsibilities I had was organization.

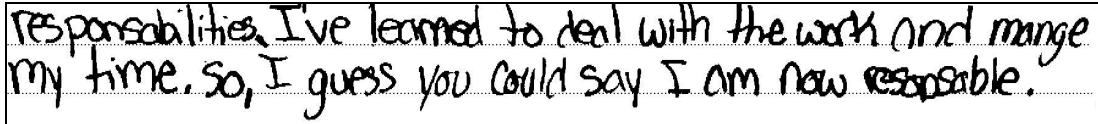
The second responsibility given to me was the difficulty of work given. When you go to middle school the work gets harder and you are assigned more work than before. When I got to middle school I had to complete my first group project and it was hard from me to adapt to this change in work. So, I had to be responsible and do all my work, so I didn't fall behind.

Another responsibility I had to learn to work with was how should I manage my time? Go into middle school I had one teacher, now I have eight. Out side of school I have thing going on. I have to plan time to do homework and other things that are related to school. This is what I had the most trouble with because I was not responsible.

So, for some students going from elementary school to middle school is a big jump. For me it was because of the

Anchor Paper 11 (Page 2 of 2)

Score Point 4



responsibilities. I've learned to deal with the work and manage my time. So, I guess you could say I am now responsible.

This writing focuses on the topic, naming more responsibilities as the biggest change since leaving elementary school. The response is organized around three increased responsibilities encountered at middle school (*stay organized, do my work and manage my time*), with each paragraph concluding by tying details to the increased responsibility (*one of the biggest responsibilities I had was organization, be responsible and do all my work, had the most trouble with because I was not responsible*). Support is developed with some detail (*up until then I didn't have a locker, and so many books. My locker was always a mess. I would forget my supplies . . . one of the biggest responsibilities I had was organization*). Each paragraph includes additional support for the idea of having more responsibility, although some details lack specificity (*I have things going on. I have to plan time to do homework and other things*). Knowledge of conventions of punctuation and capitalization is generally demonstrated. An attempt has been made to vary sentence structure, and word choice is adequate.

Anchor Paper 12 (Page 1 of 2)

Score Point 4

Moving to a different school is hard for many people, no matter what the age is. Moving from elementary has to be the hardest and most different. I had a lot of trouble moving to middle school not only because it was new but because I moved to Florida and had to move to a whole new state to start my middle school years. That was my hardest change.

There are a few reasons that this was such a big change. One reason is because it's a whole new environment. I moved from New York to Florida, two totally different states. The weather is so much different. There are many different people and definitely different places. You also have to think about what you do before you do it because there are differences in the crime rate, believe it or not.

Another reason this was a big change for me was because it was a very big middle school. I went from a tiny elementary to a middle school with five different buildings to it. There are many more classrooms and teachers. You also have to start to switch classes on your own because you have seven different teachers and they don't walk you to your next class. Switching classes gets you used to going into an even bigger school called high school.

One last reason it was such a big change for me was because there were many different rules and a whole new procedure through out the day. When I say rules I mean like dress code and the way you

Anchor Paper 12 (Page 2 of 2)

Score Point 4

walk through the halls to switch to a new class room. In middle school you have to follow the arrows when you walk, you can't just go any way you want to. Dress code they are a little bit more strict on what you are and are not aloud to wear to school, like shorts have to be a certain length, and shirts have to be a certain width.

In conclusion, those are a lot of things you should look for in a new school. I am 13 and in the 8th grade at [Rose] Middle School and I am doing very well. I am now on my way to high school and ready for a whole new school once again.

This response addresses the topic, focusing on changes encountered when changing schools. The writer explains three reasons, which shape a clear organizational pattern and contribute to a sense of wholeness (*it's a whole new environment, a very big Middle School, many different rules*). Support for the three ideas is uneven. The second paragraph provides a layered list of details about a new environment, but some of the details lack specificity (*totally different states, The weather is so much different, different people and definitely different places*). The last reason is better developed with connected specifics (*When I say rules I mean like dress code and the way you walk through the halls . . . you have to follow the arrows . . . you can't just go any way you want . . . they are a little bit more strict on what you are and are not aloud to wear . . . shorts have to be a certain length*). Knowledge of the conventions of written language is evident, as is variation in the sentence structure.

Have you had changes in life? Well changes can be big and small. About a year ago I made a pretty big change. I had to go from a little elementary school to a huge junior high. I think the biggest change I've had was now I have to memorize everything. You have to memorize lockers, building and lunch numbers, and schedules.

To start with, you have to memorize lockers. They all look the same so you can't just tell which ones yours unless you remember where it is. Then you have at least two one for all your books and one for gym. So in order to open them you have to remember the combinations. Also if you're in band then you'll have three lockers, even more combinations to remember.

Moving along now, you also have to memorize building and lunch numbers. You have to remember building numbers so you're not late to class everyday. It's not like you stay in the same class anymore for the whole day. Then you have to remember your student ID number because you have to use that to buy lunch and check books

Anchor Paper 13 (Page 2 of 2)

Score Point 5

out of the library.

Furthermore, you have to learn your schedule. Its not at all like elementary school where your teachers tell you which class is next. In junior high you have 6 classes and each day you have a different class a different hour. Also you only have 5 minutes to get to your locker and get your stuff and then get to class.

In conclusion, the biggest change I have had from elementary to junior high is you have to memorize a lot of stuff. You have to memorize lockers, building and lunch numbers, and schedules. Its not as easy as it seems. There is alot more independance in junior high. But once you memorize, the rest is a piece of cake.

This writing is focused on the topic of all the things students must memorize in the change from elementary to middle school (*lockers, building and lunch numbers, and schedules*). The organizational pattern provides for a progression of ideas, beginning in the opening paragraph with a rhetorical question to set up the main idea, and the use of transitions moves the reader through the text (*To start with, Moving along now, Furthermore, In conclusion*). The paper conveys a sense of completeness. Each supporting idea is amply developed. The writing demonstrates a mature command of language and some precise word choice, which helps to convey the frustration of all the memorization (*Also if your in band then you'll have three lockers, even more combinations to remember . . . Its not as easy as it seems*). Various sentence structures are used throughout, and sentences are complete. Knowledge of the conventions of mechanics, usage, and spelling is evident.

Anchor Paper 14 (Page 1 of 2)

Score Point 5

Going from elementary school to middle school has a lot of changes. When I think about that transition, I remember the change from one teacher a day in elementary school to seven teachers a day in middle school being the biggest for me. Having seven different classes a day was a change that was fun, hard, and it gave me more to worry about. In the following essay I will explain why this change was really big for me.

To start off, the change to seven classes a day was very fun in some ways. For example, it seemed more exciting because you move around more and don't sit in the same room all day, like in elementary school. Also, I get to see almost all my friends every day because I have different classes with them. Seven classes a day is better too because if I have a teacher I don't like, I only have him or her for only an hour a day. The change from one class to seven classes a day is exciting and fun.

Another way this was the biggest change for me is because it was a hard change. After spending almost my whole life in elementary school, I had gotten into a routine of only having one class, so when I had seven classes my routine was destroyed. This change was also hard because all the teachers are tougher and I could never have a break. The last way having seven teachers a day is hard is it is so tiring. It seemed like I was on walking all the time, going upstairs then downstairs and all around the

Anchor Paper 14 (Page 2 of 2)

Score Point 5

school, going to all the different classes. Having seven classes a day is so tough.

All I do in middle is worry, worry, worry. Having seven different teachers gives you a ton to worry about because they don't talk and plan what days they each have tests, so sometimes I have six or seven tests a day! Plus, you get a ton of homework to do, which makes worry, because... I don't want to forget any of it. It makes you think so much and worry about seven different things. This is why having seven classes makes you worry.

I really like middle school, a lot more than elementary school. However, there were some pretty big changes, the biggest for me being the change from one to seven classes a day. It was fun, hard, and gave me a lot to worry about, but for me I liked it a lot. This is why it was the biggest change for me.

This response is focused on the explanation of the change from elementary to middle school being "fun, hard, and it gave me more to worry about." The organizational pattern provides for a progression of ideas. Transitions are used between paragraphs (*To start off, Another way, All I do in middle is worry*) and within paragraphs (*To start off, the change to seven classes a day was very fun in some ways. For example, it seemed more exciting . . . Also, I get to see almost all my friends . . . Seven classes a day is better too because*), contributing to a sense of wholeness. Supporting ideas are amply developed. The writing demonstrates a mature command of language, and word choice is sometimes precise (*When I think about that transition . . . So when I had seven classes my routine was destroyed . . . All I do in middle is worry, worry, worry*). Sentence structure is varied, and knowledge of the conventions of mechanics, usage, and spelling is demonstrated.

"Seven periods!", I exclaimed. Moving from elementary school to middle school can be a big change for students. I'd have to say having seven classes is the biggest change. With new teachers, a lot more work, and getting lost, it's no wonder kids are scared of middle school.

On average 70% of students are scared of middle school. With seven new teachers, I would be terrified too. You have to remember all their names and adjust to their different personalities. It's nothing like the one old lady who always baby's you in elementary school. When you reach middle school, you're considered a big kid, no more babying from your teacher. Some teachers are mean and old, some are nice and young, with seven, you have to learn to adjust.

"Oh boy, oh boy!", I complained, "Math, science, history, so much home work!" When you have seven classes you tend to have a lot more work. Teachers don't plan with each other so that you won't have homework in every class, they just give it to you. With that happening, you can have homework in every class, but in elementary you hardly have any homework. With so much work, you

Anchor Paper 15 (Page 2 of 3)

Score Point 5

can forget after school play time, you'll be buried in text books so much work in your seven classes is a big change.

On top of all of that, the majority of new middle schoolers get lost on their first few days. Middle school is much larger than elementary, there for it is much easier to get lost on a bigger campus. The schedules they give you normally have one class on one side of the school, and the next on the other side. Good luck making it to class with only four minutes until the next bell. Tip, bring a map of your school the first day, with your classes marked, it helps you to not get lost and be on time. Middle school can be like a maze, easy to get lost in.

To conclude this difficult day at middle school, the biggest change from elementary school is having seven classes. You have seven new teachers, a lot more work, and you can easily get lost well, have fun with a hard, new, changing life in your new middle school, it's way different than elementary.

Anchor Paper 15 (Page 3 of 3)**Score Point 5**

This response is focused on the reasons that having seven classes is the biggest change from elementary to middle school (*With new teachers, a lot more work, and getting lost*). The organizational plan provides for a progression of ideas. The writer uses dialogue and statistics to introduce the main topic and to transition to each supporting idea ("*Seven periods!*". . . *On average 70% of students are scared of middle school . . . "Oh boy, oh boy!" . . . the majority of new middle schoolers get lost*). All supporting ideas are amply developed. The writing demonstrates a mature command of language and uses precise word choice to convey meaning (*with seven, you have to learn to adjust . . . you'll be buried in textbooks . . . Good luck making it to class with only four minutes . . . Middle school can be like a maze*). Sentence structures are varied, and sentences are complete. Conventions of mechanics, usage, and spelling are generally followed.

Everyone has experienced elementary school. There, there is always someone by your side. But the next step up is middle school. The biggest change I have experienced from elementary to middle school is having to do things on my own, and to be more responsible for myself. Some things in middle school, I had to change where, changing from building to building on my own, and having to make more decisions with someone not always there to mother me.

To begin, middle school was a big step for me. In elementary school, I usually stayed in one building and changed between two classrooms. If we went to p.c. or lunch, we went as a class. Here in middle school, we have six classes spread over multiple buildings. Every individual has their own class schedule, and when the bell rings, you set free. You would usually have to stop by your locker in between classes, and you've only got five minutes. In elementary school, you didn't have to worry about a locker, or how much time you had to get to class. You had a bathroom in the classroom, and carried everything you needed in a backpack. Also, here in middle school, teachers watch you in the hallways between class changings, but it's not like elementary school where the teacher follows you around all day. In middle school, it's depending more on you to get where you need to be.

Anchor Paper 16 (Page 1 of 2)

Score Point 6

To continue, Another thing I changed when I got into middle school was learning to be responsible for my self. Nobodys here to follow me around anymore, and tell me the right decisions to make. I remember in elementary school, when we would go out on the playground, teachers would constantly remind you not to do certain things. Here they give you one chance, if you mess up again, its a conduct cut. In elementary school, there really wasnt very many decisions to make, and the ones that we had someone usually made them for you. Here, we have to decide, "when is it the best time to go to my locker and use the restroom?", and "is this something so important that I shouldnt do my homework?". You are also faced with decisions about parties, and if it will ruin your rep. if you dont go, but if you go then "when will I do my homework?". Middle school decisions are tough, but now your growing up, and we have to do things on our own.

Finally, middle school differs alot from elementary school. There are many changes, like being set on your own to change classes, or having to make wise decisions by yourself. I have really enjoyed middle school even though its been a long journey. I have experienced many changes in the growing stage.

The writing in this response focuses on comparing two differences between middle and elementary school. The writer uses a logical organizational pattern, with clear use of transitions (*To begin, to continue, finally*). This paper demonstrates a sense of completeness. Carefully selected details provide support to fully develop each idea (*In elementary school, I usually stayed in one building and changed between two classrooms. If we went to p e or lunch we went as a class. Here in middle school, we have six classes spread over multiple buildings. Every individual has their own class schedule*). The writing demonstrates a mature command of language, and sentences are complete with purposeful variation. Few conventions errors occur in mechanics, usage, and punctuation.

Anchor Paper 17 (Page 1 of 3)

Score Point 6

I am an adolescent, not a baby. I have come to experience many changes from elementary to middle school. By far, the biggest change for me is responsibility. I have learned and realized many new standards I must live up to -- Responsibility is key in those achievements. Responsibility is my biggest change because my parents aren't there to handle my responsibilities, I have more classes at school, and peer pressure has grown in my life.

To start, in elementary school, my mom and Dad were there for me in every way. They knew my teachers, my homework, when I had tests, who my friends were -- everything. Just like when you're 5, and you are learning how to ride a bike; your Dad is holding onto you while you pedal beside him. That was me in elementary school. But then, your Dad lets go and you don't realize it -- but it doesn't matter. You're off! That is me now. I have to do things on my own. Yes, my parents help me in every way they can, but in middle school there is only so much they can help you with. I have come to take responsibility for my actions, without my parents by my side. I don't always have them there to remind me of things. I have to be responsible on my own now.

Anchor Paper 17 (Page 2 of 3)

Score Point 6

Secondly, I have more classes at school. More classes means more responsibility. I have to get to all my classes on time, do homework for each one, talk to my teachers when I'm absent, and many more. All of these things I am responsible for. It is my job to be in charge of my work and how hard I try. In elementary school we had one teacher and hardly any homework. My teachers would tell us what we missed if we were absent. Now in middle school, it is my responsibility to do those things. My science teacher always says, "I'm not going to baby you". That makes me think of responsibility as a big change.

Last, peer pressure has grown in my life. I am responsible for myself and my choices. There have been times where my friends have made bad decisions and they try to drag me into them. It is important for me to remember my morals and remember that I must remain responsible or all I have worked for will get thrown away. That is another way responsibility is a big change for me.

All in all, responsibility is my biggest change because my parents aren't there to handle my responsibilities. I have more classes, and there is more peer pressure. Change is hard but responsibility will always be #1 in my life.

Anchor Paper 17 (Page 3 of 3)**Score Point 6**

This response focuses on responsibility as the biggest change between elementary and middle school. The writer introduces three reasons in a logically ordered progression, and develops substantial support for each reason (*in elementary school, my Mom and Dad were there for me in every way. They knew my teachers, my homework . . . Just like when you're 5, and you are learning how to ride a bike . . . That was me in elementary school. But then, your Dad lets go*). The writing demonstrates involvement in the subject, and the response has a sense of wholeness as the writer compares and contrasts responsibilities in elementary and middle school throughout the paper (*In elementary school we had one teacher . . . My teachers would tell us what we missed if we were absent. Now in middle school, it is my responsibility*). The mature command of language and varied sentence structure follow the conventions of usage and punctuation.

Anchor Paper 18 (Page 1 of 2)

Score Point 6

Do you remember elementary school? I surely do. With the childhood memories, snack time, and naps, it's surely anyone's favorite thing. Then, you get slammed unprepared into the huge, scary, noisy middle school! I think the biggest change between those two very different worlds is the amount of work. One day you're coloring a purple giraffe, the next you're writing quadratic formulas. The most homework you had in elementary was simple arithmetic!

As mentioned previously, middle school has about a million and one times more work. Classwork, homework, projects, tests, and all that jazz. I remember sitting on the edge of my plastic blue chair, small enough for a baby, and hearing my teacher say, "Your homework is to have fun," with an enormous warm grin on her face. That's a bit different than my strict math teacher snapping, "Page 247! Numbers one through fifty!" It has taken me until the last year of middle school to adjust to the grueling workload.

Do you recall a time when 'project' meant bringing in your favorite stuffed bear for show-and-tell? Now it means construct a posterboard, write an extensive essay, and read it in front of your judgmental peers. Projects are only a small slice of the big work pie. What a change from elementary school! I remember when you got an 'A' for not misbehaving. This experience has definitely

Anchor Paper 18 (Page 2 of 2)

Score Point 6

made me a harder worker, that's for sure!

My last point is that we have way more homework! I do more homework now than I ever have. I have at least two hours every night. In elementary school, there was no homework. What a change! Running around the sunny playground during recess with my blond best friend worked just fine for me. ~~I~~ I slave away on homework like a dog. Whoever invented it is someone who I'd like to have a word with!

All in all, the biggest and most significant change from elementary to middle school was the abundant amount of work. Such an experience, you'd think, would leave most kids not encouraged to continue trying in school! Well not me! I actually look forward to high school. Only one thing intimidates me: If the amount of work multiplied from elementary to middle school, I shudder to think how much there is in high school! Uh oh, I may be in for a not-so-lovely surprise. I sure think my experience dealing with change in schools has me prepared though. I suppose this was an important change I had to deal with.

This writer focuses on the topic by explaining the amount of work as the biggest change. The organizational plan and use of transitional devices contribute to a sense of completeness. Supporting details are relevant and illustrative (*One day you're coloring a purple giraffe, the next you're writing quadratic formulas*). Precise word choice and freshness of expression enhance the writer's commitment and involvement (*Do you recall a time when 'project' meant bringing in your favorite stuffed bear for show-and-tell? Now it means construct a posterboard, write an extensive essay, and read it in front of your judgmental peers*). Various sentence structures are used, and the few conventions errors do not interfere with understanding.