

Oklahoma Writing

Spring 2015



*Grade 8*

*Narrative*

Prompt and Anchors for:

**Ideas and Development**

&

**Organization, Unity, and Coherence**

**SECURE**



**Grade 8 WRITING Section 2****Writing Topic:**

**Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.**

**Before you begin planning and writing your narrative, read the two passages**

1. "Round 'em Up and Move 'em Out!"
2. "A Life on the Trail"

**Round 'Em Up and Move 'Em Out!**

*Come along boys and listen to my tale,  
I'll tell you of my troubles on the old Chisholm Trail.*

- 1 The young cowhand croons softly as he lounges by the campfire, strumming his guitar. Nearby, other cowhands rest, eating up steaming bowls of red beans with biscuits. A huge herd of cattle, guarded by a watchful night cowhand crew, grazes beside them on the great plain under a sky spattered with stars.
- 2 The cattle drives of the Old West endured for only a short period during the history of the United States, yet their impact on American culture was enormous. Today, cowhands work mainly on ranches and use many of the same skills of cowhands long ago. Whether past or present, cowhands and their adventures have intrigued people around the world.

**How It All Began**

- 3 The first cattle arrived to the western parts of North America from Spain during the 1500s. Initially, people mostly used their hides, tallow,<sup>1</sup> and horns; they did not eat the meat. Native Americans preferred buffalo to beef, and settlers mostly ate pork. Also, there was no good way to preserve the meat and carry it to towns in the East.

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<sup>1</sup>**tallow:** beef fat, often used for candles and soaps



- 4 Because there was not a high demand for cattle, wild herds grew rapidly as they roamed the western lands. However, demand grew with the increasing flow of immigrants into the United States. Expanding eastern cities and western “gold rush” settlements needed meat, so westerners began to round up wild cattle. Ranches quickly sprouted up throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and nearby territories. Each ranch marked its cattle with the ranch’s own brand. Enormous herds of cattle were moved thousands of miles, either to eastern cities or west to California.

### **The Golden Age of the Cowboy**

- 5 Cattle drives became popular during the 1850s and peaked during the 1860s. Following the Civil War, many young soldiers returned home needing jobs. Driving cattle proved to be difficult but profitable work.
- 6 Ranch owners would hire trail bosses who would lead cowhand crews on cattle drives. Most crews were racially diverse—whites, African Americans, and Mexicans often worked together. Many African American men migrated to the West after the Civil War and accounted for almost 20% of the men working as cowboys. Mexican cowboys, also known as *vaqueros*, accounted for almost 15% of the cowboys during this time.
- 7 Several ranch owners might use a single crew to herd all the cattle they wanted to sell. A team of about 12–15 cowhands could move 3,000 cattle a distance of approximately 10–20 miles a day. The crew did not push the cattle to walk too quickly, because then the cattle might lose weight and draw a lower price in the marketplace. A cattle drive usually began during the spring and took months to complete.
- 8 The earliest cattle drives from Texas followed the Chisholm Trail, which ran from the Rio Grande through Oklahoma to Central Kansas. It was named after trader Jesse Chisholm, who first followed it.
- 9 Other trails were named after famous trail bosses. One of these was Charles Goodnight, who invented the chuck wagon. This wagon had a fold-out counter that was used for food preparation. The rest of the wagon was lined with built-in storage, which was filled with food, utensils, water, the crew’s bed rolls, and assorted tools. The trail cook could serve meals to the cowhands directly from the wagon. Many cattle drives used Goodnight’s chuck wagon design. Goodnight himself became partners with rancher Oliver Loving. They mapped out the Goodnight-Loving Trail, which traveled through New Mexico and into Colorado.



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### The End of an Era

- 10 The last major cattle drive occurred during the early 1870s. Since ranchers had begun buying up land and running barbed wire around their property, herds of cattle could no longer cross these lands. However, as railroads continued to expand, cattle could be taken by rail from Texas to distant markets. Cattle drives became much smaller events designed to simply move cattle to different grazing areas on large ranches.
- 11 The golden age of the cattle drive only lasted about twenty years, but tales of hard-working cowboys still fascinate people today.



### Life on the Trail

- 1 The dusty trails that cattle drives followed were long and often difficult. Day and night, a handful of people shouldered the responsibility of protecting and moving thousands of cattle. Severe weather, fast-moving rivers, steep cliffs, cattle thieves, rattlesnakes, and stampedes were just a few of the dangers cowhands might encounter along the trail. In order to be successful, the crew needed to be highly organized. Each cowhand-for-hire, also called a “drover,” had a specific role and rode in a specific position during the drive.

#### Trail Boss

- 2 As the leader, the trail boss was usually the most experienced drover and was in charge of the entire operation, ensuring the safety of both cowhands and cattle. The person in this role could generally be found riding far in front of the herd, scouting for safe trails and sources of fresh water and grass. Although most trail bosses were men, some women owned ranches and ran cattle drives.

#### Point Man

- 3 After the trail boss, point men were usually the more experienced and respected cowhands on the drive. Point men generally worked in pairs and rode at the front and slightly off to the side of the herd. They kept the lead steer<sup>1</sup> traveling in the correct direction, recognizing that the other cattle would follow the lead steer. They also determined the speed of the drive.

#### Swing Man

- 4 The left-swing and right-swing men rode about one-third of the way back in the herd. The herd itself did not travel in a pack but walked in a narrow line, and swing men were responsible for keeping the herd in that tight line. They also prevented strays from escaping into the brush.

#### Flank Man

- 5 Flank men rode in pairs about two-thirds of the way back, one on each side of the herd. Like swing men, they would “cut in” or head off stray cattle. Both swing and flank men were usually moderately experienced cowhands.

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<sup>1</sup>steer: a type of male cattle



### Drag Rider

- 6 Of all the jobs on the trail, the work of the drag rider was the least desirable. Drag riders rode at the back to ensure that the slower-moving cattle kept up with the herd. Nicknamed “dust-eaters,” drag riders often tied handkerchiefs over their faces to keep the dust kicked up by the cattle out of their noses and mouths. Inexperienced cowhands were usually assigned this job.

### Horse Wrangler

- 7 The drovers who rode alongside the cattle switched their exhausted horses at least a few times a day. It was the horse wrangler’s job to care for the remuda, or spare horses. With up to 100 horses in the remuda, the wrangler’s job was not easy. He rounded them up, enclosed them in rope corrals, and supplied them with grass, water, and corn.

### Cook

- 8 The cook was often the oldest person on the drive, but he also had one of the hardest jobs. He usually awoke at 3 a.m. to begin food preparation, and he cooked three meals a day, often with the dust, rain, wind, or sun beating on him. He might serve foods such as salt pork, biscuits, gravy, beans, and coffee.

### Challenges of the Trail

- 9 Cowhands worked long hours in the dust and heat. The string of cattle might stretch out for a couple of miles, so drovers communicated using hand signals and hat gestures.
- 10 One of the greatest dangers cowhands could face was a stampede, in which hundreds of cattle would begin running in a blind panic. Stampedes were most often caused when a lightning strike frightened the herd into running. Immediately, all the nearby cattle would follow, and the stampede would grow rapidly. Drovers had the difficult job of stopping stampedes before the cattle escaped or charged over a cliff. The possibility of being trampled forced cowhands to utilize all their horse-handling experience.
- 11 At night, the night crew, also called night hawks, watched over the cattle while the day crew slept on blanket rolls under the open sky. Most cowhands did not even have tarps to cover themselves during rainstorms. The cowhands might get injured, sunburned, bitten by insects, or dehydrated. Still, many relished the freedom of their jobs and the ability to use their skills.
- 12 Each member of the cattle drive had a special job based on his experience and skills. Regardless of their roles, cowhands recognized that they must work together to keep the cattle safe.



# Ideas & Development



Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic: Life on the Trail

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

The stampede on the trail it mark at night, when every one get out to them work. The life on the trail is hard because every night there is a stampede on the trail. If you have a lot of things you need to take care on trail because the stampede can push his or she what ever you have. The life on the trail is more like when you go to the train.

When the day is going to end the boss get more experienced. When the end of the day is more is to drive because is not time to go to them work. All the stampede became because the people need to go to work to take care of them family. When the day is close to end some people are

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in their house cat. The Stampede is made of people that is train to not get like were were they are going to.

After the day end for the driver they go to a nice place that is quiet and express. The driver need to express after they finish the job. They go to quiet place because every day need to deal with an stampede. The driver the of express because every they have to deal with an stampede as they driver.

The Stampede of the people start to work at 3 a.m. they got them work. That a good thing that the people eat at their work. Is a good thing because if they go back to their house there is 3 time the same Stampede. When they go back to their house is going to be back in for. The Stampede is at morning and at night.

The driver they are good but they go home faster they come have an accident at the way home. That way they need to sleep well.

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So the no have accident on the way there.  
 the drive they need to found a the job that  
 not have and stamped it. Same they can dell  
 every day when the go to wor of the ham.  
 you tink tha is drive need to ket in go  
 to andre place tha not have a tu of trafe  
 or stay and dell with the stamped it.

ID Score Point 1	
Narrative techniques are missing and a story is not developed.	

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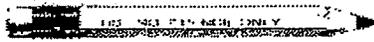
On the Day of the trail I had to gather all the cattle and horses. As the leader, I was the trail boss I was usually the most experienced drover and I was in charge of the entire operation ensuring the safety of both cowhands and cattle. The Point man who was after the trail boss, point men were usually the more experienced and respected cowhands on the Drive. Point men

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generally worked in pairs and rode at the front and slightly off to the side of the herd. They kept the cattle steady, traveling in the correct direction, recognizing that the other cattle would follow the lead steer. We also had a horse wrangler who rode aside the cattle switched their exhausted horses at least a few times a day. It was the horse wrangler's job to care for the Remuda, or spare horse's. The cook was often the oldest person on the drive, but he also had one of the hardest jobs. He usually awoke

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at 3 a.m. to begin food preparation, and he cooked three meals a day, often with the dust, rain, wind or sun beating on him. Cowhands worked long hours in the dust and heat. One of the greatest dangers cowhands could face was a stampede, in which hundreds of cattle would begin running in a blind panic. Immediately, all the nearby cattle would follow, and the stampede would grow rapidly. Each member of the cattle drive had a special job



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based on his experience and skills. Regardless of their roles, cowhands recognized that they must work together to keep the cattle safe.

ID Score Point 1

Narrative techniques are missing, and a story is not developed. It retells material from a reading passage.

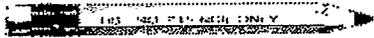
## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

IT'S A WARM, CLOUDY  
DAY. THE CATTLE DRIVE  
IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE.  
SITTING BY THE CAMPFIRE  
LOOKING ON. THE COOK  
TO PREPARE SOMETHING  
TO EAT. HE AWOKE AT  
3 A.M.. HE IS THE OLDEST  
MAN WITH US. HE  
PREPARES THREE MEALS  
A DAY. HE HAS THE  
HARDEST JOB.

WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT



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the road. Get on the  
dusty trails that cattle  
drives follow. They were  
long and often difficult.

ID Score Point 1  
Narrative techniques are  
missing, and a story is not  
developed. It retells material  
from a reading passage.

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Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Exhausting, aggravated, and painful. This is my life about me being a Cowhand. My job is to help prepare the food with the cook. We prepare great food for our group. It's not the best food in the whole West but it's something to help us get by with for the whole day. After we had our daily lunch we dance, sing old folk songs and play games. Then we get back on the Chislon trail. I get on my horse and round up the cattle. My job is very tiresome. I had to watch the cattle and make sure they don't wander off. It was hard for me to watch for the cattle, I had nobody else to help me watch the cattle. I was only the age of 14, I couldn't handle the harsh winds and storms like the rest of the tougher cowboys.

At night

ID Score Point 2

The content is very limited, and the story is minimally developed.

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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Do you have a cool job that you like to go to everyday? Being on a cattle drive is so much fun! I'm very important to the cattle drive. I'm a Trail Boss. I'm a very experienced rider. I ride at the front of the herd. Being the boss of the cattle drive definitely has its ups and down. It's a great adventure, you see great things, but there is many dangers out here. You also have very many jobs. I overcome something new everyday. I help the cattle drive out by finding safe trails, keeping the cowhands safe, and finding resources we need.

One thing I do on the cattle trail as Trail Boss is I find trails. I find

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safe trails so the cattle don't get hurt. I have to find trails that aren't steep or rocky. If I choose the wrong trail I could lead the cattle right off a cliff! I don't want any of the cattle to get hurt on the trails I choose because that is money down the drain. If they get hurt on my trails it makes me look bad for doing that!

The second thing I do on the cattle trail as Trail Boss is I take care of other cowhands. I make sure no one gets hurt. We need everyone healthy and alive to get these cattle to where they need to be. I have to make sure to keep the cattle calm so no one gets stepped on or even knocked off their horse. It my job to protect them from all the dangers out there.

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The third way I help out on the cattle trail as a Trail Boss is I find sources. We're always needing water for the cattle and even us! I find streams, ponds, even rivers sometimes. The cattle get hungry because they walk all day so I try to find the grass and other things they like to eat. I also find a safe place for the cowhands to camp every night.

I doubt you have a cool job like mine! I love being a cowhand! I like being around cattle and being in charge. Cattle trails are fun especially when you're a Trail Boss like me! Being a Trail Boss comes with responsibilities. I find safe trails, take care of other cowhands, and find sources.

ID Score Point 2

Although there is a narrator, narrative techniques are virtually non-existent.

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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Out on the ranch we have a lot of fun but it is a lot of work. I am a cowhand about every spring we go out on a cattle drive.

We take about 3,000 cattle on the drive every year there is 15 cowhands and we take the cattle about 20 miles until we reach a point to where we need to be at.

All of the cowhands sleep at one point we have the night hawks and the drovers. The big thing they had to worry about is if the cattle got in to a stampede it was usually caused by lightning because it frightend them.

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If we had a stampede we had to make sure the did not climb a cliff and then us lose them usually we did not have alot so it was okay we ate late in the afternoon for lunch around three and dinner was after dark.

If you were a cowhand you had to have a great horse that was trained really well if they weren't then it didn't work really well because they didn't make it far with the pack and so if you had a stampede the horse would not go crazy.

If I was a cowhand I think I would like that because all of the things you can do and have fun with while you are working and forming a bond with other people.

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and making life good for  
wha you want it to be.

ID Score Point 2  
There is a narrator presenting  
details from the reading passages,  
but there is no narrative.

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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was one hot spring day. I had just come back from the war. I needed a job to keep my family alive. I told my wife "honey I'm going out, to look for a job. As I went through building after building I couldn't find job, so I took a rest. When I was walking home, I came across this farm named "El gran Rancho". The name caught my eyes. I walked in, there was this old man sitting next to a horse. I asked him "Sir you need any help, I'm looking for a job" he said "Maybe you can be partner", he told me he was about to go on a cattle drive. I was kinda scared. But you know I had to do it, it was for my family! He assigned me as a driving man. I was a bit happy I found this job.

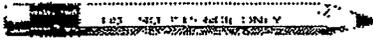
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As I went walking home back, with a smile on my face. I came to side my house and I told my wife "Sweetie guess what" she said "Oh my god, Don't tell me you didn't find a job!" I said "NO, I found one of the greatest jobs ever. She ran towards me and hugged me. I know she was proud of me. It was already night and I was nervous for the big day I got ahead of me. I couldn't sleep. although I did drift off to sleep.

As I woke up, all nervous. I got ready for my big day. I went to the farm that guy gave me a list of what I needed. I told him if he could hold on cause I had to go get some things I needed. I ran as fast as I could. I found the nearest store, I got all the stuff I needed and headed back. I knew I was ready for this. The boss began gathering the cows. Right then I knew the best journey of my life was about to begin.

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That was pretty chilly so I decided to put on  
 my leather jacket. My dad had given it to us a  
 memory of him. Later that night the Thunder  
 stream began. The Boss said "lets stop there gonna  
 be trouble if we keep going". A "vaquero" said  
 "everything is gonna be ok, lets keep going". The Boss  
 said no. So we stopped on this river. I was  
 scared, I thought something bad was gonna happen.  
 As the night went through, nothing happened. It  
 was morning and the birds were chirping. The boss  
 scream out "EVERY ONE COME HERE!!"  
 We saw that one of the flank-men was dead.  
 That had slowed us down, because we couldn't  
 take him with us, so we had to dig a hole  
 for him. A few weeks had past and I thought  
 we were never gonna make it. A few days  
 ago back. We come across this river and  
 we stopped to rest. I immediately took all my  
 clothes off got my swim cap and sponge and  
 got in the water. The water was not that



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cold it was pretty warm. We spent the  
 whole day there. Next morning we walked  
 a few miles and got there. I was  
 happy I made Alivo. They took us  
 back on this fancy wagon. For a second  
 I thought we had to go back walking. When  
 we made it back home, safe and alive.  
 My wife was happy to see me!

ID Score Point 3  
 Context and point of view are present. The imagined story is adequately developed using some details. Both description and dialogue are evident.

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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

## My First Cattle Drive

I was excited to go on my first cattle drive. But I didn't know it was going to be this difficult. The men looked at me weird. Is it because I'm a woman? I didn't mind, I liked my job. Before I left, I ate a bowl of beans and a cup of coffee. I was ready. I was looking forward for the beginning of the cattle drive, the challenges, and how I'll overcome those challenges on the trail.

The trails were dusty. It was steamy hot. But I continued to move the cattle. Paragraph 7, lines 2-3 of "Round 'Em Up and Move 'Em Out," it says, "A team of 12-15 cowhands could move 3,000 cattle a distance

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of approximately 10-20 miles a day." There was 12 men and me. Hopefully on the next cattle drive I go to another women comes. Paragraph 2 lines 5-6 of "Life on the Trail" it says, "Although most trail bosses were men, some women owned ranches and ran cattle drives." We did 5 miles already and need 8 more to go. But the challenges are starting.

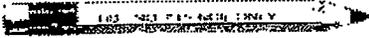
It was getting dark and the crew wanted to rest. I wasn't tired so I watched over the cattle. Paragraph 11 lines 1-2 of "Life on the Trail" it says, "At night, the night crew, also called night hawks, watched over the cattle while the day crew slept on blanket rolls under the open sky." I was sitting on the ground beside the cattle and I got bitten by an insect. Everyone had a sunburn including me. We were all dehydrated, but could only drink a few water or else it would run out before we arrived. Paragraph 11 lines 3-4 of "Life on the Trail" it says, "The cowhands might get injured, sunburn-

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ned, bitten by insects, or dehydrated." It was really difficult, there was nothing for the sunburn or for the bite. It was about five in the morning and I was excited for breakfast.

Everyone awoke. The cook had prepared salt pork, biscuits, gravy, beans, and coffee. Paragraph 8 line 4 of "Life on the Trail" it says, "He might serve foods such as salt pork, biscuits, gravy, beans, and coffee." When I took a bite of the salt pork it felt like I was in heaven. I forgot all about the sunburn, the insect bite. It was wonderful. We started moving the cattle. Only 8 miles to go. I was thinking about home. But I continued through the trail. It was getting windy and all the dust was going in my eyes, I couldn't see. I grabbed a bit of water and rubbed my eyes, I felt better. Finally we arrived to Oklahoma. It was beautiful. Can't wait for my second cattle drive.

In conclusion, we headed back home. We arrived, it was nice being home. I like



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seeing new places. My first cattle drive was amazing. There were a few challenges, but I overcame them. The next cattle drive I go to I hope it's to Texas. I really want to explore Texas. I will never forget my first cattle drive!

ID Score Point 3  
Context point of view is established. Dialogue and description are evident. The imagined story is adequately developed, in spite of the awkward presentation of some details.

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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Have you ever had a job? I had a good paying job. I sometimes can't help but think if the danger I put myself in is really worth the money. I'm a Cowhand to be more exact I'm a Flunk Man. I stand about two-thirds back and my job is kind like a swing man but just in different spots. We "cut in" or head off stray cattle. Now that I have said that I can't help but remember a long hard day while on a cattle drive so allow me to tell you about it.

It was in the Spring some time during the 1850's, when a young man and his family were moving and needed some help getting their cattle to California. They must have heard how good my group and I were because they wasted zero to no time looking anywhere else. He offered me \$250 for every cow's head that made it to California.

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I just so happen to be so confident I made a Deal with this young man and said if I get every Cow there then we will do \$250 but if I lose one Cow we will do five dollars a cow. The man agreed so the next day my group and I rode up to this young man's land to get the cattle. Comes to see the young man forgot to tell me how many cattle he had. I counted to about 300 and stopped counting before I realised two cows were with child!

So, we decided to go a down hill pathway. There I was about two-thirds back so unsure about this drive. I think I worked harder on this move than anyone in life. Every few seconds I was putting a cow back into line. When the biggest bull I have ever seen stepped out of line I couldn't help but to ask God why me. He pushed my horse out of the way, he would scare her so bad she would walk over there. Finally I jumped off my horse put a rope around his neck and made him walk behind me. I was so scared he was going to see how small I was compared to him and just run

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me over. After a mile or so this bull realized that he was not going to win this battle so I took my rope off him, jumped on to my horse and continued putting cattle in these spots.

When I began to think my day could get no worse, I felt something on my nose. I looked up at the sky and seen heavy, dark but to dark to be rain clouds. I whistled up at Sir Josh Plotner who was our swing man at the time and said "looks like snow tell kuythen (our trail boss) we need to find a place to stop and wait the storm out."

Soon I started to look around there was no place to take shelter from the storm. I had thought to my self we stop we might not make it we keep moving we may lose cattle. I decide moving forward was the best possible thing.

As the snow began to fall harder so did my patience. Out of no where Josh pulls up besides me and says they need your help one of the cows was pregnant and is now trying to have

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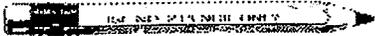
her baby. So I headed up there and helped deliver a beautiful calf, who can't walk so we placed her in a wagon and moved her mom close to the wagon. We lost one cow, during the storm so I knew we were going to get less than deserved.

When coming onto the young man's new land in California I told the group about the deal everyone was a little upset. Josh's face lit up and he whispered into Laythen's ear. Laythen liked the plan. Laythen then asked me "how many cattle were 'a counted for?'"

"3,000" I responded to his question. "Did you count for the two cows pregnant twice?"

With that said I realized that I had not. "So your saying we really came up with an extra cow?" I asked Laythen who then smiled and replied, "indeed mama I think your right."

Finally the trip was over we got paid \$250 each cow for 3,000 cows. This was the last cow drive I did with my best friends Laythen and Josh.



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I would never suggest such a job to anyone. It's very hard. I would always love to do it myself due to the fact running a cow drive is in my blood.

ID Score Point 3  
Context and point of view are present, and the imagined story is well developed using details. Description and dialogue are present.



## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

"Come on boys we got a long way to go!" said the boss man. We had just gotten done branding the cattle, and now we have a long journey ahead of us; "The Chisholm Trail, ah yes I remember that trail I know it like the back of my hand" said Pedro our cook. "I remember ~~watching~~ that trail myself!" "Come on boys let's get a move on!" said the boss man, I hurried to grab my handkerchiefs, I was <sup>experienced</sup> ~~experienced~~ at this so. I already knew they were gonna make me <sup>be</sup> a flank man, I thought I deserved to be the Point Man considering that I've been a cowhand for two years but our Point man has been doing this for five years. So I

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

had to give him respect.

We went on our long journey, by the end of March we should be crossing through Oklahoma, and by the end of a April we'll be in central

Kansas I told myself. "Were making good time boys, good job" said the boss man. We'd been riding for 12 hours and dusk was coming soon, I wondered when we were gonna stop to rest, I feel like I was thinking about ~~bea~~ because then the boss man said

"Here boys this is where we'll rest for tonight." So we switched with the "Night Hawks" it was a good night.

Pedro <sup>our cook</sup> made us some beans and biscuits with some gravy on the side with coffee. We were all tired but so we slept good.

The weather had been fair it rained a bit ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> it was mostly sunny and hot. We've been riding for a month

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Now and so far it's been alright nothing has happened yet but the weather is looking bad and the cattle are walking with precaution. It starts to rain it seems fine at first so we keep walking then all you see is a bright light in the sky and a loud Boom! All the cattle scamper everywhere and then everyone tries to round them up the boss man yells at me "Omar, you go that way!" So I hurry to round up all the cattle. Pedro hangs to his wings so he won't get trampled on.

Everyone is spreading out getting ~~these~~ <sup>the</sup> cattle back in formation. I hurry and got all my cattle back and told the drag rider to keep them there and not <sup>to</sup> let them wander off then I went to go help the boss man and finally everything was okay again. Our journey wasn't getting any easier the days were getting hotter and we were becoming

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

dehydrated the cattle was getting skinnier and the rattlesnakes were coming out more often on the bright bright side our journey was almost over it was almost the end of April and our journey was coming closer and closer everyday. "Omar I think you got 10 shades darker boy." Says Pedro, Pedro always had something smart to say but with how hot it's been I'm sure he wasn't kidding.

It was our last day our journey was finally over we'd be in Kansas by sunset. "Well boys you've all done a great job proud of y'all it's been a great deal working with y'all." Said the boss man. We'd been thru a bit these couple of months but it was an honor to be a cowhand there was nothing else I'd rather be. ~~and Pedro was right I did get 10 shades darker~~

ID Score Point 4

Imagined experience fully developed by descriptive details. Dialogue and description effectively used to develop events and characters.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Ever since I was six years old, I knew what I wanted to be. It broke my heart to see my daddy leave, but it brought joy to my eyes when he would return. My dad was always scared since then. When I told him "Daddy I wanna be just like you". He told me, "Darlin' someone like you would get killed out there." What does he mean someone like me? When I told my mother, she made it worse. You wanna know what she said, "A COWHAND!"; she shouted at me, then her voice softened, "You much to preety to be a cowhand. Maybe you can marry one." Marry one! I don't want to marry one I want to be one. That's when I was for sure, I had to be a cowhand, just so I can prove all of them wrong.

When I was growing up everyone laughed and made fun of me. Except one person my bestest friend and the person who supported my choice, Richard. We have been best friends ever since we were two. When I realized what I wanted to be,

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Richard said he would be one too. We decided I would be the trail boss and Richard would ride along right beside me.

No one ever thought a woman who looked like me, and who my mother was would ever want to do something so dangerous for a girl, but I didn't find it dangerous. I found it thrilling. Not one bone in my body found it dangerous.

Now the day is here for me to fulfill my dream. My father has passed away, and now the need someone to lead them, and that someone is me. When I told the rest of the men I was going to lead them and be their trail boss. Some laughed, but said "OK, you can try it.", Others believed I could or just thought I wouldn't make it one night out there.

I have made it back from the Chisholm Trail. Today is one of the most happiest days of my life. I have realized that I will be having a baby soon. The father is Richard, we got married on the trail. But most of all I have overcome the greatest challenge I have been trying to overcome since I was six, especially on trail, now I am a Trail Boss, to my cow hand, I'm going to be a mother, I'm a wife, and most of all I have fulfilled my dream and proved

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

*everyone wrong.*

ID Score Point 4

Appropriate content. The imagined experience has a fully developed narrator and characters. Context and point of view are very clearly defined. Dialogue and description effectively develop experiences and characters.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was in 1857 when it happened. I was just starting as a cowhand, specifically a drag rider. I was the lowest on the totem pole. The others called me "Dirt Eater". They didn't really like me, but said enough they wouldn't say "Keep up, Dirt Eater!" The Point Man said, "I was on my first cattle drive. So I guess making fun of the new guy was "cool" to them. I stopped and said "Shouldn't we rest? It's pitch black out here!" Of course this provoked the Trailboss. "Shut up, what's-his-face. It's not like the big, bad, boogie man will get us." I keep galloping on my brown quarterhorse like nothing happened. We just crossed the border line into Oklahoma from Texas an hour or two before, when the Trailboss finally eases up. "Alright. Rest here. You get an hour, then back in the saddles!" he

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

hisses. Of course I sit by myself, but then I hear a noise. "Do I hear a growl?" I asked myself.

I ran to the other cowhands to tell them we should leave. "Partners, sorry for saying we should stop. I didn't think about the dangers of the night critters." They had snappy replies, "Oh, is the new kid scared? Maybe he just isn't cut out for cattle drivin'." Not even a second after that reply, the mountain lion came into view. I knew I was right. The shocked looks on their faces were priceless.

"Calmly catch fire on one of the sticks, please!" I said as we all "stood" up. The wild cat was hissing and growling. Just as soon as the stick of fire was put in my hand, the Mountain cat pounced. Everyone ran but the trail boss and I. I stayed because I was going to ward off the cat. The trail boss stayed because he was underneath the clenching paws of the lion.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

"Ah! Get him off me! Now! Please!" I hear the trailboss call. I think "I didn't even know his name... I'm sure he has a family. I can't leave him like this."

"Whoosh, whoosh" the flames scream as they slice the air. I hear the lion's stress call, a call of pain, or anger, or horror. WHOOSH! I'm almost knocked backward from the wind of the lion running past me into the woods.

Silence plays its' horrible song for a few minutes. "I'm alright," the trail boss declares, "But you. The Dirt Eater... Why did you save me? I've been nothing but rude to you. Why?" I had already asked myself the same question when I replied "I didn't even know your name."

## ID Score Point 4

Content is appropriate for both the audience and the purpose. The narrator and characters are fully developed through the use of descriptive details, dialogue, and description. Context and point of view are clearly defined.



# Organization, Unity & Coherence



## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Exhausting, aggravated, and painful. This is my life about me being a cowhand. My job is to help prepare the food with the cook. We prepare great food for our group. It's not the best food in the whole west but it's something to help us get by with for the whole day. After we had our daily lunch we dance, sing old folk songs and play games. Then we get back on the Chislon trail. I get on my horse and round up the cattle. My job is very tiresome. I had to watch the cattle and make sure they don't wander off. It was hard for me to watch for the cattle, I had nobody else to help me watch the cattle. I was only the age of 14, I couldn't handle the harsh winds and storms like the rest of the tougher cowboys.

At night

OUC Score Point 1

Lacks logical direction.

No evidence of an organizational structure.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

If I was on a cattle drive I would want to be a point man. A point man is just one of the positions in a cattle drive. There are many positions the trail boss, point man, swing man, flank man, horse wrangler, drag rider, and cook.

The highest one on the cattle drive is trail boss. The trail boss rides in front of the cattle. The reason he rides in front is so he can make sure there is nothing dangerous.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

The next highest is Point may they work in pairs. They are usually at the front and to the side. They also determine the speed.

OUC Score Point 1  
Lacks logical direction.  
No evidence of an organizational structure.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

I have no clue what to write, but here it goes. I would be the cook all they do is get up at 3am. to cook and that the time I get, and I know how to cook all ready. One of these stampede comes I out thought, but I'll be back once they got it under control. I would be good at being the trail boss because I'm good at telling people what to do. I just can't have no one back talk me because I will end up beating them. Plus I can't have no one tell me what to do I don't take order well!!

OUC Score Point 1

Lacks logical direction.

No evidence of an organizational structure.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Out on the ranch we have a lot of fun but it is a lot of work. I am a cowhand about every spring we go out on a cattle drive.

We take about 3,000 cattle on the drive every year there is 15 cowhands and we take the cattle about 20 miles until we reach a point where we need to be at.

All of the cowhands sleep at one point we have the night hawks and the drovers. The biggest thing they had to worry about is if the cattle got in to a stampede it was usually caused by lightning because it frightens them.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

If we had a stampede we had to make sure they did not climb a cliff and then we lose them usually we did not have a lot so it was okay we ate late in the afternoon for lunch around three and dinner was after dark.

If you were a cowhand you had to have a great horse that was trained really well if they weren't then it did not work really well because they did not make it far with the pack and so if you had a stampede the horse would not go crazy.

If I was a cowhand I think I would like that because all of the things you can do and have fun with while you are working and forming a bond with other people.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

and making life good for  
wha you want it to be.

OUC Score Point 2  
Introduction leaves the reader  
with questions.  
Transitions are ineffective.  
Lacks logical direction.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was a sunny day in spring. When I woke up, I had Bob and Bill talking about a cattle drive. So I walked over and asked if I could go. Bill said yes. The first thing I did was getting dressed. It took me about twenty minutes. Then I packed my horse and we all left the ranch with the cattle. So our journey has begun. It took us two days to leave Oklahoma. The first night we slept on the grassy ground. The night-hawks took watch. A night hawk yelled out a storm is coming. The black sky is roaring and our cattle stampeded in all different directions. So we had to scramble to catch our cattle. We finally get them back and we settle in for the night. In the morning our cook Andy had breakfast ready for us so.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

We eat and pack our gear and we head out we get 5 miles and a cattle thief spooks our cattle and we shoot at the cattle thief and killed him. So we get moving again and we stop to let the cattle graze and drink. Our cook Andy has lunch made for us so we eat and we get back to our cattle drive. We get to a little town East of Kansas. So we trade our horses out for fresh ones. And so we get back to work and our wagon breaks down. So we fix it and we finally get on the good night loving trail. And we get down a little ways and cattle thieves come out and try to take our cattle away from us and they failed. So we go to sleep and one of our cattle is spooked, so I get up and check on him a snake is scaring him so I shoot the snake and go to sleep next morning. I wake up and find two of the cows dead. I found snake bites and the rest of my cowhands wake up and find the dead cows on the ground.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

So we get moving again and we get to  
our Destination.

OUC Score Point 2  
Introduction leaves the reader with questions.  
Transitions are ineffective.  
Attempted a story, but a conclusion is missing.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

I am a trail boss, or you can say I am the leader of everything. I got this position because I am the most experienced drover. I am mostly at the front of the herd during a cattle drive. I also make sure the cowhands and cattle are safe.

Me and my cowhands are going on a cattle drive. It is the early 1860s and we have a plan. The trail boss which is me I have to go find fresh sources

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

of water and food. I will use this to feed the cattle. It will help me and the cowhands survive also.

There is many dangers when going on this cattle drive. It is so hot and dusty that it feels like the sun is baking you. One danger we face every cattle drive we do is having a stampede. A stampede is where hundreds of cattle start running in a blind panic. We could get ran over by one of the cattle.

We have a cook. He or she is very hard working. They get up at 3 a.m. to begin cooking. The cooker has to cook in the rain,

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

dust, wind or the sun might be beating on them. They mainly cook salt pork, biscuits, gravy, beans, and coffee.

We have to work in bad conditions. We face many dangers when doing a cattle drive. The cooks work very hard to prepare us meals all day long. I am a trail boss. I love my job because I love to take control like I do when being a trail boss.

OUC Score Point 2

Introduction leaves the reader with questions.

Unclear event sequence.

Transitions are ineffective.

Conclusion is missing.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was one hot springs day. I had just come back from the war. I needed a job to keep my family alive. I told my wife "honey, I'm going out, to look for a job. As I went through building after building I couldn't find jobs, so I took a rest. When I was walking home, I came across this farm named "El Gran Rancho". The name caught my eyes. I walked in, there was this old man sitting next to a horse. I asked him "Sir, you need any help, I'm looking for a job" he said "Maybe you came partner", he told me he was about to go on a cattle drive. I was kinda scared. But you know I had to do it, it was for my family! He assigned me as a working man. I was a bit happy I found this job.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

As I went walking home back, with a smile on my face. I came to side my house and I told my wife "Sweet, guess what" she said "Oh my god, Don't tell me you didn't find a job" I said "NO, I found one of the greatest jobs ever. She ran towards me and hugged me. I know she was proud of me. It was already night and I was nervous for the big day I got ahead of me. I couldn't sleep. although I did drift off to sleep.

As I woke up, all nervous. I got ready for my big day. I went to the farm that guy gave me a list of what I needed, I told him if he could hold on cause I had to go get some things I needed. I ran as fast as I could. I found the nearest store, I got all the stuff I needed and headed back. I knew I was ready for this. The boss began gathering the cows. Right then I knew the best journey of my life was about to begin.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

That was pretty chilly, so I decided to put on  
 my leather jacket. My dad had given it to us a  
 memory of him. Later that night the thunder  
 stream began. The boss said "lets stop there, it  
 be trouble if we keep going". a "vaquero" said  
 "everything is gonna be ok, lets keep going". The boss  
 said no. So we stopped on the river. I was  
 scared, I thought something bad was gonna happen.  
 As the night went through, nothing happened. It  
 was morning and the birds were chirping. The boss  
 scream out "EVERY ONE COME HERE!!"  
 We saw that one of the flank-men was dead.  
 That had slowed us down, because we couldn't  
 take him with us, so we had to dig a hole  
 for him. a few weeks had past and I thought  
 we were never gonna make it. a few days  
 ago back. We come across this river and  
 we stopped, to rest. I immediately took off my  
 cloths of got my swim cap and sponge and  
 got in the water. The water was not that

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

cold it was pretty warm. We spent the  
 whole day there. Next morning we walked  
 a few miles and got there. I was  
 happy I made it. They took us  
 back on this fancy wagon. For a second  
 I thought we had to go back walking. With  
 we made it back home safe and alive.  
 My wife was happy to see me!

## OUC Score Point 3

Introduction interests and orients the reader.  
 Event sequence is logical and moves the  
 reader through the story.  
 Transitions signal shifts in time and settings.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

## My First Cattle Drive

I was excited to go on my first cattle drive. But I didn't know it was going to be this difficult. The men looked at me weird. Is it because I'm a woman? I didn't mind, I liked my job. Before I left, I ate a bowl of beans and a cup of coffee. I was ready. I was looking forward for the beginning of the cattle drive, the challenges, and how I'll overcome those challenges on the trail.

The trails were dusty. It was steaming hot. But I continued to move the cattle. Paragraph 7, lines 2-3 of "Round 'Em Up and Move 'Em Out," it says, "A team of 12-15 cowhands could move 3,000 cattle a distance

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

of approximately 10-20 miles a day." There was 12 men and me. Hopefully on the next cattle drive I go to another women comes. Paragraph 2 lines 5-6 of "Life on the Trail" it says, "Although most trail bosses were men, some women owned ranches and ran cattle drives." We did 5 miles already and need 8 more to go. But the challenges are starting.

It was getting dark and the crew wanted to rest. I wasn't tired so I watched over the cattle. Paragraph 11 lines 1-2 of "Life on the Trail" it says, "At night, the night crew, also called night hawks, watched over the cattle while the day crew slept on blanket rolls under the open sky." I was sitting on the ground beside the cattle and I got bitten by an insect. Everyone had a sunburn including me. We were all dehydrated, but could only drink a few water or else it would run out before we arrived. Paragraph 11 lines 3-4 of "Life on the Trail" it says, "The cowhands might get injured, sunburn-

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

rned, bitten by insects, or dehydrated. It was really difficult, there was nothing for the sunburn or for the bite. It was about five in the morning and I was excited for breakfast.

Everyone awoke. The cook had prepared salt pork, biscuits, gravy, beans, and coffee. Paragraph 8 line 4 of "Life on the Trail" it says, "He might serve foods such as salt pork, biscuits, gravy, beans, and coffee." When I took a bite of the salt pork it felt like I was in heaven. I forgot all about the sunburn, the insect bite, it was wonderful. We started moving the cattle. Only 8 miles to go. I was thinking about home. But I continued through the trail. It was getting windy and all the dust was going in my eyes, I couldn't see. I grabbed a bit of water and rubbed my eyes, I felt better. Finally we arrived to Oklahoma. It was beautiful. Can't wait for my second cattle drive.

In conclusion, we headed back home. We arrived, it was nice being home. I like

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

seeing new places. My first cattle drive was amazing. There were a few challenges, but I overcame them. The next cattle drive I go to I hope it's to Texas. I really want to explore Texas. I will never forget my first cattle drive!

## OUC Score Point 3

Introduction interests and orients the reader. Event sequence is logical and moves the reader through the story.

Transitions signal shifts in time and settings. Conclusion follows from narrated experiences and events.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

The river in front of me is rushing downstream. My men behind me are waiting for me to get back to tell them that they can move on. My name is Isabelle Longcaster. I'm only twenty-eight and one of the best, experienced trail bosses in Oklahoma. I'm the leader of this cattle drive scouting ahead of the herd for a safe way to Kansas on the Chisolm Trail. I head back telling my men that it is ok to move on, but to be careful.

It is already suppertime when we get to the river. We

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

can not move the herd over the river at night, so I told the men that we rest here for the night. By the time we set up camp the cook was done making supper. That night we only ate biscuits and gravy with some water from the river. As soon as we hit our bed rolls we were out.

That night a storm hit. All of a sudden I wake up seeing the lead bull going crazy. In a flash a stampede was started. Looking around I see the night hawks scrambling to get the cattle under control. My flank men and my horse wranglers were over by the horses settling them down when my horse, Blackie, kicked my right flank man. Finally, I decided to do the craziest thing

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

that had the chance of either getting me killed or stopping this whole mess. I jumped on Blackie, got the head bull's attention, and crossed the rushing river. The next thing I knew was I was soaked on the bank of the river. I guess I had fallen off Blackie in the chaos, but I was alive. My plan had worked.

The next day I was scouting ahead when I came upon a dog. As soon as I saw this dog a bobcat, I guess, had come up behind me. I saw the dog leap at me. I ducked just in time. I look over and see him fighting this huge mother bobcat. I took my gun and shot him right between the eyes. After that the dog followed me everywhere.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

After a while of him following me, he finally decided to give him the name Bullet after how fast he shot over me to save me from the bobcat.

After five months of driving about 3,000 of cattle we came to Salt Licks, Kansas. As soon as I saw that beautiful city, Bullet and I went as fast as we could back to camp. When I told my men how close Salt Licks was, we had those cattle herded up and moving in three hours. We would have had the cattle herded up faster, however, the lead bull got a case of hydrophobia from some loafer wolf and had to put him down. Then it took time finding another bull that the cattle would follow.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

As soon as we got to Salt Licks we sold the cattle. We got about \$3,700 for the cattle. I distributed the money evenly between me and nineteen other men. We each got about \$185. After that we each got a good hardy meal and a nice bath and headed back home. My men, Bullet, and I were glad to finally be able to get back home and rest until the next adventurous cattle drive.

## OUC Score point 3

Introduction interests and orients the reader.

Event sequence is logical and moves the reader through the story.

Transitions signal shifts in time and setting.

Conclusion follows from narrated experiences and events.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Today is my first day on a cattle drive. I don't really know what to expect, to tell you the truth i don't wanna be here. My uncle is making me go, he said something about turning me into a man. You see my uncle is a trail boss so i guess that means he's in charge of the whole operation. He told me that i was going to be the "dust-eater" or something like that, i honestly hope thats just a nickname.

Uncle Joseph said that we'll all gather at a campfire and then the drive starts at the top morning. I hope that i get to ride side-by-side with my uncle.

It's top of morning and the ride is ready to start, my older cousin is also riding, but this

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Isn't his first rodeo. He's been doing cattle drives since he could ride a horse, so before the ride he gave me some hints. He really didn't give me any hints at all, all he did was give me a handkerchief.

Before we started moving we had to group the cattle together and get in our positions. My uncle told me that I would be way in the back, he said my job was to make sure the slow moving cattle kept up with the herd. When I found that out, I was shocked that I was in the back by myself.

The worse part was that within minutes the cattle started moving. That meant that my job started. Personally things were going fine until the cattle started running and piles of dust started getting in my mouth and nose. I was overwhelmed with coughing and sneezing until I remembered the handkerchief my cousin had given and used it to cover my mouth and nose, instantly the coughing and sneezing stopped. Thankful for my cousin I kept on riding.

Later on in the drive a group of cattle started moving slower. I bucked my horse and they

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

ped back up. Around noon clouds started coming in and I knew that meant a thunderstorm. My uncle gave a signal which my dad uses for almost their so I knew we were almost there.

Two hours had passed since the clouds moved in and it was already pouring down rain. I could see the ranch a couple of miles ahead, but then the unthinkable happened. A flash of lightning followed by a boom of thunder and in a flash half the herd charged towards me. The only thing I could think to do was get out the way. My cousin, chasing after the herd, shouted at me that the herd was charging towards a cliff. I looked and clearly saw the cliff and with a moment's notice I was in a race with the herd to get to the cliff.

I barely beat the herd to the cliff and they were still charging. I had to think quick and I did. Suddenly I saw myself making my horse jump, kick, and buck wildly, something I hate doing but I had to do it.

My plan worked the cattle stopped in the

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

nick of time and the sky: magically cleared up. On top of that my uncle Jaw the whole thing. He was so proud of me he jumped off his horse and gave me a hug. When we gave the cattle to ranch my uncle gave me another hug and told me, "You have become a man today nephew".

## OUC Score Point 4

Introduction engages and orients the reader.

Well-structured event sequence moves the reader through the story in a natural and logical manner.

A variety of transitions signal shifts in time and settings and show relationships among experiences and events.

Conclusion flows naturally from the narrated experiences and events.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Have you ever had a job? I had a good paying job. I sometimes can't help but think if the danger I put myself in is really worth the money. I'm a Cowhead to be more exact I'm a Flunk Man. I stand about two-thirds back and my job is kind like a swing man but just in different spots. We "cut in" or head off stray cattle. Now that I have said that I can't help but remember a long hard day while on a Cattle drive so allow me to tell you about it.

It was in the Spring some time during the 1850's, when a young man and his family were moving and needed some help getting their cattle to California. They must have heard how good my group and I were because they wasted zero to no time looking anywhere else. He offered me \$250 for every Cows head that made it to California.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

I just so happen to be so confident I made a Deal with this young man and said if I get every Cow there then we will do \$250 but if I lose one Cow we will do five dollars a cow. The man agreed so the next day my group and I rode up to this young man's land to get the cattle. Comes to see the young man forgot to tell me how many cattle he had. I counted to about 3000 and stopped counting before he realised two cows were with child.

So, we decided to go a down hill pathway. There I was about two-thirds back so on one about this drive. I think I worked harder on this move than anyone in life. Every few seconds I was putting a cow back into line. When the biggest bull I have ever seen stepped out of line I couldn't help but to ask God why me. He pushed my horse out of the way, he would scare her so bad she would walk over there. Finally I jumped off my horse put a rope around his neck and made him walk behind me. I was so scared he was going to see how small I was compared to him and just run

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

me over. After a mile or so this bull realized that he was not going to win this battle so I took my rope off him, jumped on to my horse and continued putting cattle in these spots.

When I began to think my day could get no worse, I felt something on my nose. I looked up at the sky and seen heavy, dark but to dark to be rain clouds. I harkled up at Sir Josh Platner who was our Swing man at the time and said "looks like snow tell kuythen (our trail boss) we need to find a place to stop and wait the storm out."

Soon I started to look around there was no place to take shelter from the storm. I had thought to my self we stop we might not make it we keep moving we may lose cattle. I decide moving forward was the best possible thing.

As the snow began to fall harder so did my patience. Out of no where Josh pulls up besides me and says they need your help one of the Cows was pregnat and is now trying to have

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

her baby. So I head on up there and helped deliver a beautiful calf, who can't walk so we placed her in a wagon and moved her mom close to the wagon. We lost one cow, during the storm so I knew we were going to get less than deserved.

When coming onto the young man's new land in California I told the group about the deal everyone was a little upset. Josh's face lit up and he whispered into Laythen's ear. Laythen liked the plan. Laythen then asked me "how many cattle were counted for?"

"3,000" I responded to his question. "Did you count for the two cows pregnant twice?"

With that said I realised that I had not. "So your saying we really came up with an extra cow?" I asked Laythen who then smiled and replied, "indeed mama I think your right."

Finally the trip was over we got paid \$250 each cow for 3,000 cows. This was the last cow drive I did with my best friends Laythen and Josh.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

I would never suggest such a job to anyone. It's very hard. I would always love to do it myself due to the fact running a cow drive is in my blood.

OUC Score Point 4

Introduction engages and orients the reader.

Well-structured event sequence moves the reader through the story in a natural and logical manner.

A variety of transitions signal shifts in time and settings and show relationships among experiences and events.

Conclusion flows naturally from the narrated experiences and events.



Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was in 1857 when it happened. I was just starting as a cowhand, specifically a drag rider. I was the lowest on the totem pole. The others called me "Dirt Eater". They didn't really upset me, but soon enough they started "Keep up, Dirt Eater!" the Point Man said.

I was on my first cattle drive. So I guess making fun of the new guy was "cool" to them. I stopped and said "Shouldn't we rest? It's pitch black out here!" Of course this provoked the Trailboss. "Shut up, what's-his-face. It's not like the big, bad, boogie man will get us." I keep galloping on my brown quarterhorse like nothing happened.

We just crossed the border line into Oklahoma from Texas an hour or two before, when the Trailboss finally eases up. "Alright. Rest here. You get an hour, then back in the saddles!" he

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

hisses. Of course I sit by myself, but then I hear a noise. "Do I hear a growl?" I asked myself.

I ran to the other cowhands to tell them we should leave. "Partners, sorry for saying we should stop. I didn't think about the dangers of the night critters." They had snappy replies, "Oh, is the new kid scared? Maybe he just isn't cut out for cattle drivin'." Not even a second after that reply, the mountain lion came into view. I knew I was right. The shocked looks on their faces were priceless.

"Calmly catch fire on one of the sticks, please!" I said as we all "stood" up. The wild cat was hissing and growling. Just as soon as the stick of fire was put in my hand, the Mountain cat pounced. Everyone ran but the trail boss and I. I stayed because I was going to ward off the cat. The trail boss stayed because he was underneath the clenching paws of the lion.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

"Ah! Get him off me! Now! Please!" I hear the trailboss call. I think "I didn't even know his name... I'm sure he has a family. I can't leave him like this."

"Whoosh, whoosh" the flames scream as they stir the air. I hear the lion's stress call, a call of pain, or anger, or horror. WHOOSH! I'm almost knocked backward from the wind of the lion running past me into the woods.

Silence plays its horrible song for a few minutes. "I'm alright," the trail boss declares, "But you. The Dirt Eater... Why did you save me? I've been nothing but rude to you. Why?" I had already asked myself the same question when I replied "I didn't even know your name."

## OUC Score Point 4

Introduction engages and orients the reader.

Well-structured event sequence moves the reader through the story in a natural and logical manner.

A variety of transitions signal shifts in time and settings and show relationships among experiences and events.

Conclusion flows naturally from the narrated experiences and events.



# Word Choice



## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

If I was a cowhand I would just drive cows. I would also probably sleep out side on a blanket ~~foot~~ at night. more than likely I would eat foods such as salt pork, biscuits, gravy, beans and coffee. I would hang out with other cow hands.

WC Score point 1

No figurative language, word relationships, or nuances in word meanings.

Lacks concrete words and phrases and domain-specific words.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic: Life on the Trail

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

The stampede on the trail it mark at night, when every one get out to them work. The life on the trail is hard because every night there is a stampede on the trail. If you have livestock you need to take care of them what ever you have. The life on the trail is more like when you go to the train.

When the day is going to end the boss get more experienced. When the end of the day is more is to drive because is not time to go to them work. All the stampede became because the people need to go to work to take care of their family. When the day is close to end some people are

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

in their house etc. The stampede is made of people that is train to not get like were were they are going to.

After the day end for the driver they go to a nice place that is quiet and express. The driver need to express after the finish the job. They go to quiet place because every day need to deal with an stampede. The driver the or express because every they have to deal with an stampede as they driver.

The stampede of the people start to work at 3 a.m. they got them work. That a good thing that the people eat at their work. Is a good thing because if they go back to their house there is 3 time the same stampede. When they go back to their house is going to be back in for. The stampede is at morning and at night.

The driver they are good but they go home faster they come have an accident at the way home. That was the need to sleep well.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

So the no have accident on the way there.  
 the drive they need to found a the job that  
 not have and stamped it. Same they can dell  
 every day when the go to work or the home.  
 you think the is drive need to that in go  
 to and re place the not have a lot of traffic  
 or stay and dell with the stamped it.

WC Score point 1  
 No figurative language or nuances in word meanings.  
 Lacks concrete words and phrases and domain-specific words.

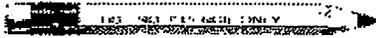
Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

IT'S A WARM, CLOUDY DAY. THE CATTLE DRIVE IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE. SITTING BY THE CAMPFIRE, I AM WATCHING THE COOK PREPARE SOMETHING TO EAT. HE AWAKES AT 3 A.M.. HE IS THE OLDEST MAN WITH US. HE PREPARES THREE MEALS A DAY. HE HAS THE HARDEST JOB.

WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT



Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

the road. Get on the  
open trails that cattle  
drives follow. They were  
long and often difficult.

WC Score point 1  
No figurative language or nuances in  
word meanings.  
Lacks concrete words and phrases and  
domain-specific words.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

- Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Its day 3 on this old trail.  
 Most of the men are about to lose their minds from the dehydration and work on this drive. The only thing that seems to keep me sane is the hope that we will find water soon.

Here comes the trail boss now. He left to go scouting for water. We all gather around for lunch and to hear what the boss has to say. "We need to go about twenty miles north to reach water," says the trail boss. "Then we will set up camp."

We get about ten miles a patch of rattlesnacks steer

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

up the cows. They take off in all directions. The trail boss yells "Stampede!" Everyone goes in pairs and starts chasing cattle. I get to my head and start to slow them down. Everyone stops their herds and merges them back together.

We get about five more miles in and one of the cowhands falls off his horse into the herd of cattle. He was trampled to death and lost too much blood.

So the trail boss promoted me from drag rider to swing man and we buried him. We said our prayers for him and moved on.

We finally reached the huge river. The cows just started running to the water so did the cowhands. We all run and jumped in the water.



Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Then the trail boss said, "Well I guess following Chisholm Trail was a good idea after all. We all just sat there and laughed."

WC Score point 2  
Word relationships and nuances in word meanings are limited.  
Concrete words and phrases and sensory details are limited.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

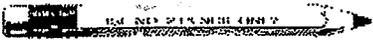
## Writing Topic

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was a sunny day in spring. When I woke up, I heard Bob and Bill talking about a cattle drive. So I walked over and asked if I could go. Bill said yes. The first thing I did was getting dressed. It took me about twenty minutes. Then I packed my horse and we all left the ranch with the cattle. So our journey has begun. It took us two days to leave Oklahoma. The first night we slept on the grassy ground. The night-hawks took watch. A night hawk yelled out a storm is coming. The black sky is roaring and our cattle stampeded in all different directions. So we had to scramble to catch our cattle. We finally get them back and we settle in for the night. In the morning our cook Andy had breakfast ready for us so

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

We eat and pack our gear and we head out we get 5 miles and a cattle thief spooks our cattle. and we shoot at the cattle thief and killed him. So we get moving again and we stop to let the cattle graze and drink. Our cook Andy has lunch made for us so we eat and we get back to our cattle drive. We get to a little town East of Kansas. So we trade our horses out for fresh ones. And so we get back to work and our wagon breaks down. So we fix it and we finally get on the good night loving trail. And we get down a little ways and cattle thieves come out. And try to take our cattle away from us and they failed. So we go to sleep and one of our cattle is spooked. So I get up and check on him a snake is scaring him so I shoot the snake and go to sleep next morning. I wake up and find two of the cows dead. I found snake bites and the rest of my cowhands wake up. And find the dead cows on the ground.



Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

So we get moving again and we get to  
our Destination.

WC Score point 2  
Word relationships and nuances in word  
meanings are limited.  
Concrete words and phrases are limited.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Out on the ranch we have a lot of fun but it is a lot of work. I am a cowhand about every spring we go out on a cattle drive.

We take about 3,000 cattle on the drive every year there is 15 cowhands and we take the cattle about 20 miles until we reach our point to where we need to be at.

All of the cowhands sleep at one point we have the night hawks and the drovers. The big thing they had to worry about is if the cattle got in to a stampede it was usually caused by lightning because it frightens them.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

If we had a stampede we had to make sure the did not climb a cliff and then us lose them usually we did not have alot so it was okay we ate late in the afternoon for lunch around three and dinner was after dark.

If you were a cowhand you had to have a great horse that was trained really well if they weren't then it didn't work really well because they didn't make it far with the pack and so if you had a stampede the horse I wouldn't go crazy.

If I was a cowhand I think I would like that because all of the things you can do and have fun with while you are working and forming a bond with other people

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

and making life good for  
what you want it to be.

WC Score point 2

Word relationships and nuances in word meanings are limited.

Concrete words and phrases are limited.

Much of the vocabulary in this paper is taken directly from the reading passages.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Ever since I was six years old, I know what I wanted to be. It broke my heart to see my daddy leave, but it brought joy to my eyes when he would return. My dad was always scared since then. When I told him "Daddy I wanna be just like you". He told me, "Darlin' someone like you would get killed out there." What does he mean someone like me? When I told my mother, shoot she made it worse. You wanna know what she said, "A COWHAND!", she shouted at me, then her voice softened, "You much to pretty to be a cowhand. Maybe you can marry one." Marry one! I don't want to marry one I want to be one. That's when I was for sure, I had to be a cowhand, just so I can prove all of them wrong.

When I was growing up everyone laughed and made fun of me. Except one person my bestest friend and the person who supported my choice, Richard. We have been best friends ever since we were two. When I realized what I wanted to be,

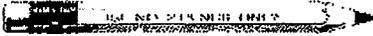
## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Richard said he would be one too. We decided I would be the trail boss and Richard would ride along right beside me.

No one ever thought a woman who looked like me, and who my mother was would ever want to do something so dangerous for a girl, but I didn't find it dangerous. I found it thrilling. Not one bone in my body found it dangerous.

Now the day is here for me to fulfill my dream. My father has passed away, and now we need someone to lead them, and that someone is me. When I told the rest of the men I was going to lead them and be their trail boss. Some laughed, but said "OK, you can try it.", Others believed I could or just thought I wouldn't make it one night out there.

I have made it back from the Chisholm Trail. Today is one of the most happiest days of my life. I have realized that I will be having a baby soon. The father is Richard, we got married on the trail. But most of all I have overcome the greatest challenge I have been trying to overcome since I was six, especially on trail, now I am a Trail Boss, to my cowhand, I'm going to be a mother, I'm a wife, and most of all I have fulfilled my dream and proved



Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

everyone wrong.

WC Score Point 3  
Word relationships and nuances in word meaning are demonstrated.  
Concrete words and phrases are used to convey ideas.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

The river in front of me is rushing downstream. My men behind me are waiting for me to get back to tell them that they can move on. My name is Isabelle Longcaster. I'm only twenty-eight and one of the best, experienced trail bosses in Oklahoma. I'm the leader of this cattle drive scouting ahead of the herd for a safe way to Kansas on the Chisolm Trail. I head back telling my men that it is ok to move on, but to be careful.

It is already suppertime when we get to the river. We

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

can not move the herd over the river at night, so I told the men that we rest here for the night. By the time we set up camp the cook was done making supper. That night we only ate biscuits and gravy with some water from the river. As soon as we hit our bed rolls we were out.

That night a storm hit. All of a sudden I wake up seeing the lead bull going crazy. In a flash a stampede was started. Looking around I see the night hawks scrambling to get the cattle under control. My flank men and my horse wranglers were over by the horses settling them down when my horse, Blackie, kicked my right flank man. Finally, I decided to do the craziest thing

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

that had the chance of either getting me killed or stopping this whole mess. I jumped on Blackie, got the head bull's attention, and crossed the rushing river. The next thing I knew was I was soaked on the bank of the river. I guess I had fallen off Blackie in the chaos, but I was alive. My plan had worked.

The next day I was scouting ahead. When I came upon a dog. As soon as I saw this dog a bobcat, I guess, had come up behind me. I saw the dog leap at me. I ducked just in time. I look over and see him fighting this huge mother bobcat. I took my gun and shot him right between the eyes. After that the dog followed me everywhere.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

After a while of him following me, he finally decided to give him the name Bullet after how fast he shot over me to save me from the bobcat.

After five months of driving about 3,000 of cattle we came to Salt Licks, Kansas. As soon as I saw that beautiful city, Bullet and I went as fast as we could back to camp. When I told my men how close Salt Licks was, we had those cattle herded up and moving in three hours. We would have had the cattle herded up faster; however, the lead bull got a case of hydrophobia from some loafer wolf and had to put him down. Then it took time finding another bull that the cattle would follow.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

As soon as we got to Salt Licks we sold the cattle. We got about \$3,200 for the cattle. I distributed the money evenly between me and nineteen other men. We each got about \$185. After that we each got a good hardy meal and a nice bath and headed back home. My men, Bullet, and I were glad to finally be able to get back home and rest until the next adventurous cattle drive.

WC Score Point 3

Demonstrates use of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Concrete words and phrases are used to convey ideas.



## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Have you ever wondered what ranch life was like? You'll deal with alot of hard work. But if you want to know what ranch life is really like you should go live it.

I grew up on a ranch, so ranch life is all I know. The first job I ever got was rebuilding the fences, because cattle thieves were always looking for good horse or cow. My least favorit thing taught to me when I was a little girl was cow branding. Cow branding is when you burn an imprint on the animal the symbol or initials of your ranch. But when the day was over and it was feeding time dad always takes me horse riding and teaches me cool ranch tricks. My dad is the best dad. He raised me all by him self except for the cow hands who watch me when I was too young to go on trails. He is so good at picking which river to drink out of and weather to go

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

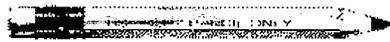
left or right to avoid BIG storms. Because my dad's a trail boss he is always up front leading everyone. One day I'm going to become trail boss, but I'm only fifteen right now. I'm a cook though and I hate it. I have to wake up at three in the morning every day to cook biscuits and gravy or red beans and rice or what ever else the group might want. I've always wanted to be a cow hand and I think I'd do really good but dad says I'm only a young girl. We usually pick up a few new cow hands each trail but to be honest I hate them. I'm very aware that my dad's very strict about respect and responsibility but that's good because no one else I seem to meet have been instilled by any of the values taught on our ranch.

One time we accidentally crossed paths with my dad's cousins and they fight all the time, but this time they didn't. A young boy maybe only sixteen or seventeen talked for hours. That day I met Rusty, a tall brown shaggy haired guy with twinkly brown eyes. I guess he was huge trouble for our cousins but I don't see how he made them stop fighting.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

All I know is Rusty was our new trail rider. Life on the trail after we got Rusty was pretty normal. He never caused any trouble and kept to himself a lot. The worst thing about trail life is the weather. Sometimes it's wind storms, rain storms, snow storms, or so hot you sweat all day long. Occasionally on trail someone will get really sick or hurt and one of our extra cow hands will have to take him back to the ranch. Trails usually last a few months. If we run out of supplies we go home sooner. When we get back to the ranch I'm so happy. I get a free day to unpack and rest, then it's back to work. I'm really good about not complaining even if I'm told to clean the cow pen. When we get back I help fix all the all the animals from last trail, and prepare the new animals for the next trail. The best part about coming home this time is having Rusty here though so I finally have someone to talk to.

Living ranch life is great if you have a good team. But then again it's so much work to maintain. Everyone should work in a ranch.



**Grade 8 WRITING Section 2**

Once in their life.

WC Score Point 3  
Demonstrates use of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meaning.  
Concrete words and phrases are used to convey ideas.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

The year was 1863, and me and my crew had just accepted the job of moving four thousand five hundred cattle along the Goodnight-Loving trail. The trail ran through New Mexico, and into Colorado. This would go down as one of the most horrific cattle drives ever.

It was hot and so hot that we had already lost one man to heat exhaustion. There were fourteen men left, and we rode nearly twelve hours a day. The conditions were terrible at best, but the pay was good. Eleven of us were soldiers from the victorious Union army. The other three were from the Confederate States of America. Being the leader of the group I knew that the eleven abolitionists were not too happy with the new rebel recruits, but we would need all of the help we could get.

I was the trail boss so I rode far in front of the cattle looking for trails and resources. My best and only friend

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Tommy was the point man his job was to keep the lead steer going in the right direction so the rest of the herd would follow. The swing men were James and Bruce, they rode one third of the way back on the herd, and their job was to keep the steer in a tight line. Ronny and Chris were the flank men they kept the cattle two thirds of the way back in a tight line. Billy was our cook, and Jimmy was the horse wrangler. Being new recruits, but skilled riders the three rebels were drag men their job was to make sure the cattle at the very back were keeping up. That was an awful job, because the dust kicked up by the cattle would get in your lungs and would cause breathing problems.

It was just before dawn, and we were already on the move. We decided to make camp because the most dangerous part of the trail was coming. It was a narrow mountain pass on either side of the trail were one hundred foot cliffs it was no more than sixty yards wide and with fifty yards of cattle there was no room for error. About four hours into the day a storm hit I made the decision to try and make camp. Before we could even get off of our horses a bolt of lightning struck at the very back of the herd! I had a stan peal on my hands. I sprung into action quickly barking orders to my men, but before my very eyes

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

I saw chris go over the edge trying to ~~save~~ what was left of my men I had <sup>tommy,</sup> james, bruce, ronny ride up in front of the herd trying to stop them before the sharp turn only 100 yards ahead. The rebel boys were along the sides keeping them from falling and dying. Finally we were at the turn now our only fear is what if they didn't stop what if they run us over and fall to their death? Now they were only twenty yards away, it sounded like a locomotive coming straight at me. In an instant another lightning strike struck in between us immediately stopping the herd!

Leaving only me ronny, tommy, bruce and james. Sadly one of the rebels was struck by lightning and one was pushed off of the cliff. The third fell off his horse and his feet got caught in the stirrup and he was dragged to death. The next day was just like any other though we had to carry on trying to salvage what we had left. It is just another day in the life of a cow hand.

## WC Score Point 4

Effective demonstration of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Concrete words and phrases are used effectively to clearly convey ideas.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

"It was my first day as a cowboy." That's what I always say when people ask me what my most difficult day was as a cowhand. It was a hot, blistering, and infernal summer day as I remember it. I was just a young boy, couldn't be a day older than 15. I was helping my mother in the kitchen, when a man comes screaming into town. "Something's comin'! Hide all your kin! They're comin'!" As the whole town began to hide my mama went outside. She was the most respected woman in all of town, and she didn't believe anything could hurt her, as long as she had her rifle. "Get outta that house, boy! We ain't no cowards, we'll survive this silly notion."

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

A. I walked

As I walked out on the porch, I saw a large mass coming towards us. As I slowly started to back into the house, Mama grabbed hold of my shirt to keep me there. As I peered past her shoulder I could see what scared everyone. There were hundreds, no, thousands of cattle coming into our little town. One man on a horse was guiding them, his chest puffed with pride. As he turned to his commands he yelled "Keep em' here!" The remaining cowhands led the cattle to the side of the main street. "Hello?" he yelled, trying to get someone's attention. "Does any body live here?" Not answering his question, Mama yells "What're you doin' here? Shouldn't you be passin' this here town with your cattle?" He walks toward us, and I creep beside her trying to get a good look without being seen. He was a handsome man, he probably had lots of girls coming after him. "Ma'am, we need a new cowhand. Any of these here fellers feel like travellin'?" He grins at her

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

charmingly. Unamused, she says, "My son'll do it. He's got lots of experience on a horse, his daddy used to be a rancher." I, shocked, look at Mama, speechless. "Umm... alright." She has a few tears in her eyes as she says, "Be good now, I'll see you in a few months." "Pack a bag son, we gotta get on the trails soon." Charming Cowhand says. As I'm packing my few belongings, I'm realizing what's happening. A few minutes later I'm already on the trail, not a few miles from home. The cowhand next to me says "There coyotes out here?" I shrug, unknowing. As I start to relax, thunder rolls through the sky, clouds quickly covering us. Before I know it, there's a flash of lightning, not 10 feet away from us. The lead steers bolt and there's a stampede! Remembering my ranching, I gallop in front of the cattle. Rain pours down my face as a surge of energy rushes through me. Heart pounding, I'm close to the lead steers, but I know this land.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

I start to realize, were close to Deadman's  
CLIFF. I start to push on, realizing the panic  
the situation is enswearing. Finally cut off  
the cattle, not a foot to spare. As we ride  
off in the right direction, the trail boss,  
Charming Cowhand comes to me. "You got  
guts kid. I'm John. John Frankin." And  
from that day, I've been a cow boy.

FIN

## WC Score Point 4

Effective demonstration of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Concrete words and phrases are used effectively to clearly convey ideas.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was in 1857 when it happened. I was just starting as a cowhand, specifically a drag rider. I was the lowest on the totem pole. The others called me "Dirt Eater". They didn't really "upart" me, but soon enough they would! "Keep up, Dirt Eater!" the Point Man said.

I was on my first cattle drive. So I guess making fun of the new guy was "cool" to them. I stopped and said "Shouldn't we rest? It's pitch black out here!" Of course this provoked the Trailboss. "Shut up, what's-his-face. It's not like the big, bad, boogie man will get us." I keep galloping on my brown quarterhorse like nothing happened.

We just crossed the border line into Oklahoma from Texas an hour or two before, when the Trailboss finally eases up. "Alright. Rest here. You get an hour, then back in the saddles!" he

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

hisses. Of course I sit by myself, but then I hear a noise. "Do I hear a growl?" I asked myself.

I ran to the other cowhands to tell them we should leave. "Partners, sorry for saying we should stop. I didn't think about the dangers of the night critters." They had snappy replies, "Oh, is the new kid scared? Maybe he just isn't cut out for cattle drivin'." Not even a second after that reply, the mountain lion came into view. I knew I was right. The shocked looks on their faces were priceless.

"Calmly catch fire on one of the sticks, please," I said as we all "stood" up. The wild cat was hissing and growling. Just as soon as the stick of fire was put in my hand, the Mountain cat pounced. Everyone ran but the trail boss and I. I stayed because I was going to ward off the cat. The trail boss stayed because he was underneath the clenching paws of the lion.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

"Ah! Get him off me! Now! Please!" I hear the trailboss call. I think "I didn't even know his name... I'm sure he has a family. I can't leave him like this."

"Whoosh, whoosh" the flames scream as they stir the air. I hear the lion's stress call, a call of pain, or anger, or horror. WHOOSH! I'm almost knocked backward from the wind of the lion running past me into the woods.

Silence plays its' horrible song for a few minutes. "I'm alright.", the trail boss declares, "But you. The Dirt Eater... Why did you save me? I've been nothing but rude to you. Why?" I had already asked myself the same question when I replied "I didn't even know your name."

## WC Score Point 4

Effectively demonstrates figurative language, word relationships and nuances.

Concrete words and phrases and sensory details are effectively used to clearly convey ideas.



# Sentences & Paragraphs



## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

it i was a cattle drive and i was  
the narrative and i had to drive  
everywhere i would probably drive everywhere  
and do whatever i wanted to do  
and do things like give people  
rides and do much everything and go  
most of the time i would just ride  
around and do nothing just ride  
around all day and move cattle all  
day and then do it the next day with the  
cattle and cowhands and do whatever and all  
the other stuff that they mostly do whenever they are  
doing when doing cattle and cowhands and just go along  
the trail and just go along the day like  
every other day would be like it i was  
cattle and cowhands every day and i would

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

follow the trail ~~where~~ ever it would take me  
 and when it was going to by roads and sea and sky  
 and all these other days that you know all to be  
 true when it comes to cattle and all the other  
~~that you have to do when you know the the end~~  
 civilization and doing them all 2:21 than the  
 other next you just got to know which  
 one that you want to do first you just have to know  
 what you want to do first then stick with it and  
 that how you know what you're doing

S&P Score Point 1  
 No clear sentence structure.  
 No attempt at paragraphing.  
 No attempt at punctuation.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

On the Day of the trail. I had to gather all the cattle and horses. As the leader, I was the trail boss I was usually the most experienced drover and I was in charge of the entire operation ensuring the safety of both cowhands and cattle. The point man who was after the trail boss, point men were usually the more experienced and respected cowhands on the Drive. Point men

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

generally worked in pairs and rode at the front and slightly off to the side of the herd. They kept the cattle steady, traveling in the correct direction, recognizing that the other cattle would follow the lead steer. We also had a horse wrangler who rode aside the cattle switched their exhausted horses at least a few times a day. It was the horse wrangler's job to care for the Remuda, or spare horse's. The cook was often the oldest person on the drive, but he also had one of the hardest jobs. He usually awoke

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

at 3 a.m. to begin food preparation, and he cooked three meals a day, often with the dust, rain, wind or sun beating on him. cowhands worked long hours in the dust and heat. One of the greatest dangers cowhands could face was a stampede, in which hundreds of cattle would begin running in a blind panic. Immediately, all the nearby cattle would follow, and the stampede would grow rapidly. Each member of the cattle drive had a special job

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

based on his experience  
and skills. Regardless of  
their roles, cowhands recog-  
nized that they must  
work together to keep  
the cattle safe.

S&P Score Point 1  
Many run-on sentences.  
No attempt at paragraphing.

Largely direct copy.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

About the cattle drive and helped gold rush so he can overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure get gold rush so will be a challenge on the trail.

S&P Score Point 1  
No clear sentence structure.  
No paragraphing.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

My life as a cowhand is very hard. Yesterday the herd was heading to Stillpoint, Oklahoma, and all the horses got loose, and I had to go get all of them. There is ninety-eight.

Then after that it started to rain and it flooded so we didn't get any sleep at all, because we had to sleep on the ground, but it was wet. After the sun came up we all ate biscuits, and beans then we started to ride again. About an hour or so we ran into a huge cliff, 2 cows fell off, because the edge of the cliff chipped off and started to fall down the cliff.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

We went on for about two hours or so longer, then we took a break around some water, to let the cows, and horses to get a drink, then all the men and women were hot so everybody went swimming. We got back on the trail and then some mountain lions started to chase the horses, and we had to shoot the mountain lions right off of their backs. Finally we made it back into town so we can get back to the ranch. As soon as we get there everyone unloaded everything and went in to get something to eat, take baths, and make beds, to get some rest. Then we are back up and going the next day or so.

S&amp;P Score Point 2

Little attempt at paragraphing.

Many run-on sentences.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was still dark outside, and the trail boys didn't know where we were. We kept driving and straight ahead was a cow, just one lonely cow. He looked as if he was ready to attack. So I opened the cattle carrier and got the whip. The cow wouldn't come so I whipped him into the carrier, closed the door, and hopped back into the van. Suddenly, the sun was shining and all we seen around us was dirt, cactus and hills, so we stopped the car to check on

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

all our cattle. I hopped out again and opened the cage. All that was in there was the one cow that we found on the road, the rest were gone. We were so tired that we just about the tent in the middle of the desert and slept. The

next morning we woke up by some strange sounds, came to find out it was a group of Indians with swords and knives. The Trail Boss took off running and all the Indians chased him except for one of them, that was staring at me and threw his knife straight at me but he missed. The rest of the Indians came running at me, knowing they have already got my Trail Boss. So they started throwing weapons

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

all around me. I didnt know  
 what to do? Next thing I  
 know, a sword is right by me  
 when the cow jumped up and  
 saved me. Then all the indians  
 were shocked! and they told me  
 all they wanted was their cow  
 back! so thats the day I survived  
 the trail.

S&P Score Point 2

No attempt at paragraphing.  
 Several run-on sentences.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was a sunny day in spring. When I woke up, I had Bob and Bill talking about a cattle drive so I walked over and asked if I could go. Bill said yes. The first thing I did was getting dressed it took me about twenty minutes. Then I packed my horse and we all left the ranch with the cattle. So our journey has begun. It took us two days to leave Oklahoma. The first night we slept on the grassy ground. The night-hawks took watch. A night hawk yelled out a storm is coming. The black sky is roaring our cattle stampeded in all different directions so we had to scramble to catch our cattle. We finally get them back and we settle in for the night. In the morning our cook Andy had breakfast ready for us so.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

We eat and pack our gear and we head out we get 5 miles and a cattle thief spooks our cattle and we shoot at the cattle thief and killed him. So we get moving again and we stop to let the cattle graze and drink. Our cook Andy has lunch made for us so we eat and we get back to our cattle drive. We get to a little town East of Kansas. So we trade our horses out for fresh ones. And so we get back to work and our wagon breaks down. So we fix it and we finally get on the good night loving trail. And we get down a little ways and cattle thieves come out and try to take our cattle away from us and they failed. So we go to sleep and one of our cattle is spooked, so I get up and check on him a snake is scaring him so I shoot the snake and go to sleep next morning. I wake up and find two of the cows dead. I found snake bites and the rest of my cowhands wake up and find the dead cows on the ground.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

So we get moving again and we get to  
our Destination.

S&P Score Point 2

No attempt at paragraphing.

Several sentence fragments and run-ons.

Limited variety of sentence structure.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was just like any other day as a horse wrangler on the Chisolm Trail during a cattle drive. I fed the horses and cleaned them. It usually took a long time since there's 80 of them. I try hard to keep them in the corral.

Today, the Chisolm Trail was wet, it was bumpy, and it was torn up by storms. They weren't your average thunder storms either, no, there were twisters every day. It started to rain out of no where. It was thundering and you could see lightning in the distance. Lightning struck the corral and horses escaped!

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Being a horse wrangler I knew what I had to do. I tied the rope back on the corral and tossed the piece of wood that was burned up. I chased after the horses in the pouring rain. I swung my lasso onto one of the horses and caught it. I started rear up. I led it back to the corral and turned right around and chased after the other. I looked up and saw a twister about two miles away. The horse was about to run off a cliff! Before he got to it I quickly swung my lasso and I ran back to the corral. Lightning struck all around me, but the horses were safe.

When I got back everyone was cheering and the rain had stopped. There was a path where a twister had been not even half a mile from the trail. That was definitely the most exhilarating moment of my career as a horse wrangler.

S&amp;P Score Point 3

Variety of sentence structure, type, and length.

Few sentence fragments or run-ons.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

On a wonderful morning my boss woke me up. He told me that my crew needed to do a cattle drive. He then told me that I have to deliver cattle from Oklahoma to Colorado. I need to get it there in less than 7 days.

The first thing I did was to feed the cattle. But then I realized that the cook already did this. I told my horse wrangler to quickly switch out the horses. My point man was steel asleep. Both my swing man were ready.

Then time pass on my whole crew was sweating including me. It has been over two

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

hours since we left the ranch. We continue our journey to Colorado.

Soon the trail boss spots water and green grass. The day has gone by fast. We then decided to camp in this area. We were surrounded by a plains of grass. We were in the middle of now where as it looks, but we know where to go.

Two days passes on. We wake up early in the morning to get ready. We soon start our journey again as the sun rises high in the sky. Every one soon notices a cloud a dark cloud we ignore it. Then minutes later we all noticed that a huge dark cloud was on top of us. Then I hear a big thunder struck. My cattle starts making noise.

I told my crew to go faster. The cattle are now afraid. I shout to the trail boss if there's any signs of people. We were far

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

from the ranch, out of now where a lightning strike hits the ground. The lightning strike was about 60 yards from us. One of my cows runs off. Soon, one of the sawing men ran off after her. I soon spot a barn.

I now rush the whole crew to the barn. A few minutes later hail balls start coming from the sky. We were feet from the barn. Then we made it. Then I open the eight feet doors so the cattle can come in. We are safe. Then I realized one of my sawing men was not in sight.

I try to go out the barn, but I can't there's just too much rain and hail.

Then I go back in the barn I see the missing person and the cow. I quickly open one of the doors. He is now safe.

The next day we make it to Colorado. Some of the cattle were

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

injured. Others lost a few pounds. The owner of the ranch was impressed. He didn't think we would of made it. Every one in my crew made it safe home.

S&P Score Point 3

Variety of sentence structure, type, and length.

Few sentence fragments or run-ons.

Evidence of paragraphing.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Today is my first day on a cattle drive. I don't really know what to expect, to tell you the truth i don't wanna be here. My uncle is making me go, he said something about turning me into a man. You see my uncle is a trail boss so i guess that means he's in charge of the whole operation. He told me that i was going to be the "dust-eater" or something like that, i honestly hope thats just a nickname.

Uncle Joseph said that we'll all gather at a campfire and then the drive starts at the top morning. I hope that i get to ride side-by-side with my uncle.

It's top of morning and the ride is ready to start, my older cousin is also riding, but this

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

was his first rodeo. He's been doing cattle drives since he could ride a horse, so before the ride, he gave me some hints. He really didn't give me any hints at all, all he did was give me a hankie.

Before we started moving we had to group the cattle together and get in our positions. My uncle told me that I would be way in the back, he said my job was to make sure the slow moving cattle kept up with the herd. When I found that out, I was shocked that I was in the back by myself.

The worse part was that within minutes the cattle started moving. That meant that my job started. Personally things were going fine until the cattle started running and piles of dirt started getting in my mouth and nose. I was overwhelmed with coughing and sneezing until I remembered the hankie my cousin had given and used it to cover my mouth and nose, instantly the coughing and sneezing stopped. Thankful for my cousin I kept on riding.

Later on in the drive a group of cattle started moving slower. I bucked my horse and they

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

ped back up. Around noon clouds started coming in and I knew that meant a thunderstorm. My uncle gave a signal which my dad uses for almost their so I knew we were almost there.

Two hours had passed since the clouds moved in and it was already pouring down rain. I could see the ranch a couple of miles ahead, but then the unthinkable happened. A flash of lightning followed by a boom of thunder and in a flash half the herd charged towards me. The only thing I could think to do was get out the way. My cousin chasing after the herd shouted at me that the herd was charging towards a cliff. I looked and clearly saw the cliff and with a moment's notice I was in a race with the herd to get to the cliff.

I barely beat the herd to the cliff and they were still charging. I had to think quick and I did. Suddenly I saw myself making my horse jump, kick, and buck wildly, something I hate doing but I had to do it.

My plan worked the cattle stopped in the

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

nick of time and the sky: magically cleared up. On top of that my uncle saw the whole thing. He was so proud of me he jumped off his horse and gave me a hug. When we gave the cattle to ranch my uncle gave me another hug and told me, "You have become a man today nephew".

## S&amp;P Score Point 3

Variety of sentence structure, type, and length.

Few sentence fragments or run-ons.

Evidence of paragraphing.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

One dusty morning, we set out for our life on the trail. I have been working with cattle since the day I was born. There is not one thing I don't know about taking care of them. When we started our long journey from Texas to western California, I was quite excited. You wouldn't think that someone would be excited about the long days of dust in your face, the sun beating down on you, and the smell of cattle all day long. Since I'm used to it, it's fine by me. I am just a small part of the cattle drive, a point man. Point men work in pairs and are in charge of keeping the lead steer headed in the right direction. We also are in charge of keeping the speed of the drive not too fast or too slow. That's when our problem came about. It was a rainy day, the first in about two

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

months. We were thankful of the rain, but it brought mud and lightning. We were sitting at the small camp we set up for the night when we decided we couldn't wait any longer for the rain to die down. Everyone packed up, saddled their horses, and moved to their positions to start another day of the drive. It was great to feel the cool, refreshing rain drip down our dry faces. The rain picked up dirt from the previous days as it ran down my cheek and dripped off my chin. "It's going to be a great day," I whispered to myself.

A couple hours later, all of a sudden, a huge, bright lightning strike startled the crew and the cattle. The leading steer bolted forward like a race car. The whole herd followed, matching the steer's pace within seconds. Being point men, our job is to keep them at a regular pace. My fellow point men and I kicked our horses into full gear. The faster we went, the harder the rain pounded our faces. As we approached the herd at a gallop, the lead steer was headed toward a semi-steep cliff. All of the point men knew what to do. Racing to the

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

front, I could feel my ~~mount~~ growing tired but ~~there~~ was no way we could risk losing any cattle.

We caught up to the head of the herd, almost at perfect time. The head steer was within feet of the edge of the cliff. As we led the herd back on the trail, everyone had caught up. I think we had learned our lesson on moving the drive forward on a rainy day. From now on, we camp out a day when it's rainy so we don't risk losing cattle.

## S&amp;P Score Point 4

Rich variety of sentence structure, type, and length.

Few run-on sentences.

Appropriate paragraphing.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

The year was 1863, and me and my crew had just accepted the job of moving four thousand five hundred cattle along the Goodnight-Loving trail. The trail ran through New Mexico, and into Colorado. This would go down as one of the most horrific cattle drives ever.

It was not so hot in fact that we had already lost one man to heat exhaustion. There were fourteen men left, and we rode nearly twelve hours a day. The conditions were terrible at best, but the pay was good. Eleven of us were soldiers from the victorious Union army. The other three were from the Confederate States of America. Being the leader of the group I knew that the eleven abolitionists were not too happy with the new rebel recruits, but we would need all of the help we could get.

I was the trail boss so I rode far in front of the cattle looking for trails and resources. My best and only friend

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Tommy was the point man, his job was to keep the lead steer going in the right direction so the rest of the herd would follow. The swing men were James and Bruce, they rode one third of the way back on the herd, and their job was to keep the steer in a tight line. Ronny and Chris were the flank men they kept the cattle one third of the way back in a tight line. Billy was cow cook, and Jimmy was the horse wrangler. Being new recruits, but skilled riders the three rebels were drag men their job was to make sure the cattle at the very back were keeping up. That was an awful job, because the dust kicked up by the cattle would get in your lungs and would cause breathing problems.

It was just before dawn, and we were already on the move. We decided to make camp because the most dangerous part of the trail was coming. It was a narrow mountain pass on either side of it there were encumbered foot cliffs it was no more than sixty yards wide and with fifty yards of cattle there was no room for error. About four hours into the day a storm hit I made the decision to try and make camp. Before we could even get off our horses a bolt of lightning struck at the very back of the herd! I had a stan ped on my hands. I sprung into action quickly barking orders to my men, but before my very eyes

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

I saw chas go over the edge. Trying to salvage what was left of my men I had <sup>tommy,</sup> james, bruce, ronny ride up in front of the herd trying to stop them before the sharp turn only 100 yards ahead. The rebel boys were along the sides keeping them from falling and dying. Finally we were at the turn now our only fear is what if they didn't stop what if they run us over and fall to their death? Now they were only twenty yards away, it sounded like a locomotive coming straight at me. In an instant another lightning strike struck in between us immediately stopping the herd!

Leaving only me ronny, tommy, bruce and james. Sadly one of the rebels was struck by lightning and one was pushed off of the cliff. The third fall of his horse and his feet got caught in the stirrup and he was dragged to death. The next day was just like any other though we had to carry on trying to salvage what we had left. It is just another day in the life of a cow hand.

S&P Score Point 4

Rich variety of sentence structure, type, and length.

Very few fragments or run-ons.

Appropriate paragraphing.

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was in 1857 when it happened. I was just starting as a cowhand, specifically a drag rider. I was the lowest on the totem pole. The others called me "Dirt Eater". They didn't really irritate me, but soon enough they started "Keep up, Dirt Eater!" the Point Man said.

I was on my first cattle drive. So I guess making fun of the new guy was "cool" to them. I stopped and said "Shouldn't we rest? It's pitch black out here!" Of course this provoked the Trailboss.

"Shut up, what's-his-face. It's not like the big, bad, boogie man will get us." I keep galloping on my brown quarterhorse like nothing happened.

We just crossed the border line into Oklahoma from Texas an hour or two before, when the Trailboss finally eases up. "Alright. Rest here. You get an hour, then back in the saddles!" he

## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

hisses. Of course I sit by myself, but then I hear a noise. "Do I hear a growl?" I asked myself.

I ran to the other cowhands to tell them we should leave. "Partners, sorry for saying we should stop. I didn't think about the dangers of the night critters." They had snappy replies, "Oh, is the new kid scared? Maybe he just isn't cut out for cattle drivin'." Not even a second after that reply, the mountain lion came into view. I knew I was right. The shocked looks on their faces were priceless.

"Calmly catch fire on one of the sticks, please," I said as we all "stood up." The wild cat was hissing and growling. Just as soon as the stick of fire was put in my hand, the Mountain cat pounced. Everyone ran but the trail boss and I. I stayed because I was going to ward off the cat. The trail boss stayed because he was underneath the clenching paws of the lion.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

"Ah! Get him off me! Now! Please!" I hear the trailboss call. I think "I didn't even know his name... I'm sure he has a family. I can't leave him like this."

"Whoosh, whoosh" the flames scream as they slice the air. I hear the lion's stress call, a call of pain, or anger, or horror. WHOOSH! I'm almost knocked backward from the wind of the lion running past me into the woods.

Silence plays its horrible song for a few minutes. "I'm alright," the trail boss declares, "But you. The Dirt Eater... Why did you save me? I've been nothing but rude to you. Why?" I had already asked myself the same question when I replied "I didn't even know your name."

S&P Score Point 4  
 Rich variety of sentence structure, type, and length.  
 Appropriate paragraphing.

# Grammar, Usage & Mechanics



## Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

it i was a cattle drive and i was  
the narrative and i had to drive  
every where i would probably drive everywhere  
and do whatever i wanted to do  
and do things like give people  
ride and do much everything and go  
most of the time i would just ride  
around and do nothing just ride  
around all day and move cattle all  
day and then do it the next day with the  
cattle and cowhands and do whatever and all  
the other stuff that they mostly do whenever they are  
doing when doing cattle and cowhands and just go along  
the trail and just go along the day like  
every other day would be like it i was  
cattle and cowhands every day and i would

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follow the first ~~where~~ ever it would take me  
 and when it was going to by roads and sea and sky  
 and all these other days that you know all to be  
 true when it comes to cattle and all the other  
 stuff you have to do when follow the first and  
 could be and doing than all ~~well~~ than the  
 other next you just got to know which  
 one that you want to do first you just have to know  
 what you want to do first then stick with it and  
 that how you know what you're doing

GUM Score Point 1

Demonstrates little or no command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Numerous errors severely impede readability.

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Writing Topic: Life on the Trail

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

The stampede on the trail it mark at night, when every one get out to their work. The life on the trail is hard because even though there is a stampede on the trail. If you have later kids you need to take care on trail because the stampede can push his or she what ever you have. The life on the trail is more like that when you go to the train.

When the day is going to end the boss get more experienced, when the end of the day is more is to drive because is not time to go to their work. All the stampede became because the people need to go to work to take care of their family, when the day is close to end some people are

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in their house cat. The Stampede is made of people that is train to not get like were were they are going to.

After the day end for the driver they go to a nice place that is quiet and express. The driver need to express after they finish the job. They go to quiet place because every day need to deal with an stampede. The driver the or express because every they have to deal with an stampede as they driver.

The Stampede of the people starts to work at 3 a.m. they got them work. That a good thing that the people eat at their work. Is a good thing because if they go back to their house there is 3 time the same stampede. When they go back to their house is going to be back in for. The Stampede is at morning and at night.

The driver they are good but they go home faster they come have an accident at the way home. That was the need to sleep well.

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So the no have accident on the way there.  
 the drive they need to found a the job that  
 not have and stamped. Same they can dell  
 every day when the go to wor of the ham.  
 you tink tha is drive need to ket in go  
 to andre place tha not have a ta of trafe  
 or stay and dell with the stamped.

GUM Score Point 1

Demonstrates little or no command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Numerous errors severely impede readability.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

If I was a cowhand I would just drive cows. I would also probably sleep out side on a blanket ~~foot~~ at night. more than likely I would eat foods such as salt pork, biscuits, gravy, beans and coffee. I would hang out with other cow hands.

GUM Score Point 1  
Demonstrates little or no command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Errors are too numerous for the length of the response: each sentence contains at least one error.

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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

I got out of the military about two months ago and I needed a job. My friends who were in the army told me to become a cowhand because of the good amount of money I would get. They were later killed by Mexican soldiers at the Alamo so I did what they told me to and went out to go join a cowhand crew. I rode a train to a ranch in northern Texas near the Rio Grande and became a cowhand.

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I was assigned the job drag rider because I was inexperienced. We gathered the cattle and headed out, we needed to get these cattle to New Mexico a place I never heard of but apparently the U.S. bought it from Mexico. Being the drag rider was a pain but other than all the dust it was a bit easier than I thought it would be. The other cowhands gave me a handkerchief, boots, and a hat. They called me dust eater and know nothing, but finally after the first day we stopped got off our horses and rounded the cattle while one of the cowhands started a fire and cooked some pork.

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Then I went to go talk to him he looked old and mad he had torn and dusty clothes and a hat. I was about to say hi and then he said "they're never going to respect you." Well what makes you think that," I said. "Because your just a kid and have no experience," he said in a frustrated voice. "You will probably be dead by the end of the week," I was afraid he might be right.

The cowhands did not give me any food for three days because I was new, I was starving and couldn't get any sleep. On the fourth day it rained and then lightning frightened the cattle and caused a stampede. I quickly got the back cattle to settle down,

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but the swing and flank men were having trouble rounding up the other cattle I rode my horse to the front of the stampede and watched as the trail boss fell off his horse, he was going to get trampled I grabbed him and he got onto the back of my horse then he thanked me for saving him. After the swing men calmed down the cattle the trail boss promoted me to point man.

That night cook gave me some beans and was surprised that I was a hero and I finally got sleep. I never died on the trail and the trip took twelve days I stayed with that crew for seventeen years until I had enough

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money for a house, food, and clothes. I decided to move to Boston in the north where I became a shop owner and bought a nice house and helped invent some of the new technology like the telegraph and steam boat. I enjoyed life from then on it was no longer hard, but it wasn't long until I was drafted back into the military.

## GUM Score Point 2

Demonstrates limited command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Errors are distracting and interfere with readability.

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Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was one hot spring day. I had just come back from the war. I needed a job to keep my family alive! I told my wife "honey I'm going out, to look for a job. As I went through building after building I couldn't find a job, so I took a rest. When I was walking home, I came across this farm named "El Gran Rancho". The name caught my eyes. I walked in, there was this old man sitting next to a horse. I asked him "Sir you need any help, I'm looking for a job" he said "Maybe you can be a partner", he told me he was about to go on a cattle drive. I was kinda scared. But you know I had to do it, it was for my family! He assigned me as a working man. I was a bit happy I found this job.

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As I went walking home back, with a smile on my face. I came in side my house and I told my wife "Sweetie, guess what!" she said "Oh my god, Don't Tell me you didn't find a job!" I said "NO, I found one of the greatest jobs ever. She ran towards me and hugged me. I know she was proud of me. It was already night and I was nervous for the big day I got ahead of me. I couldn't sleep. although I did drift off to sleep.

AS I Woke up, all nervous. I got ready for my big day. I went to the farm that guy gave me a list of what I needed. I told him if he could hold on cause I had to go get some things I needed. I ran as fast as I could. I found the nearest store, I got all the stuff I needed and headed back. I knew I was ready for this. The boss began gathering the cows. Right then I knew the best journey of my life was about to begin.

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That was pretty chilly, so I decided to put on  
 my leather jacket. My dad had given it to us as a  
 memory of him. Later that night the Thunder  
 Stream legend: The Boss said "lets stop these gnomes  
 be trouble if we keep going". a "vaquero" said  
 "everyting is gonna be ok, lets keep going". The Boss  
 said no. So we stopped on this river. I was  
 scared, I thought something bad was gonna happen.  
 At the night went trough, nothing happened. It  
 was morning and the birds were screaming. The boss  
 scream out "EVERY ONE COME HERE!!"  
 We saw that one of the flank-men was dead.  
 That had slowed us down, because we couldn't  
 take him with us, so we had to dig a hole  
 for him. a few weeks had past and I thought  
 we were never gonna make it. a few days  
 ago back. We come across this river and  
 we stopped, to rest. I immediately took off my  
 clothe of foot my swim poo and sponge and  
 got in the water. The water was not that

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cold it was pretty warm. We spent the  
 whole day there. Next morning we walked  
 a few miles and got there. I was  
 happy I made alive. They took us  
 back on this fancy wagon. For a second  
 I thought we had to go back walking again  
 we made it back home safe and alive.  
 My wife was happy to see me!

## GUM Score Point 2

Demonstrates limited command of the  
 conventions of standard English grammar and  
 usage as well as capitalization, punctuation,  
 and spelling.

Errors are distracting and interfere with  
 readability.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Have you ever had a job? I had a good paying job. I sometimes can't help but think if the danger I put myself in is really worth the money. I'm a Cowhand to be more exact I'm a Flunk Man. I stand about two-thirds back and my job is kinda like a swing man but just in different spots. We "cut in" or head off stray cattle. Now that I have said that I can't help but remember a long hard day while on a Cattle drive so allow me to tell you about it.

It was in the Spring some time during the 1850's, when a young man and his family were moving and needed some help getting these cattle to California. They must have heard how good my group and I were because they wasted zero to no time looking anywhere else. He offered me \$250 for every Cows head that made it to California.

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I just so happen to be so confident I made a Deal with this young man and said if I get every Cow there then we will do <sup>\$</sup>250 but if I lose one Cow we will do five dollars a Cow. The man agreed so the next day my group and I rode up to this young man's land to get the Cattle. Comes to see the young man forgot to tell me how many Cattle he had. I Counted to about 3000 and stopped counting before I realised two Cows were with child!

So, we decided to go a down hill pathway. There I was about ~~two-thirds~~ back so unsure about this drive. I think I worked harder on this move then anyone in life. Every few seconds I was putting a Cow back into line. When the biggest bull I have ever seen stepped out of line I couldn't help but to ask God why me. He pushed my horse out of the way, he would scare her so bad she would walk over there. Finally I jumped off my horse put a rope around his neck and made him walk behind me. I was so scared he was going to see how small I was compared to him and just Run

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me over. After a mile or so this bull realized that he was not going to win this battle so I took my rope off him, jumped on to my horse and continued putting cattle in these spots!

When I began to think my day could get no worse, I felt something on my nose. I looked up at the sky and seen heavy, dark but to dark to be rain clouds. I whistled up at Sir Josh Plather who was our swing man at the time and said "looks like snow tell kuythen (our trail boss) we need to find a place to stop and wait the storm out."

Soon I started to look around there was no place to take shelter from the storm. I had thought to my self we stop we might not make it we keep moving we may lose cattle. I decide moving forward was the best possible thing.

As the snow began to fall harder so did my patience. Out of no where Josh pulls up besides me and says they need your help one of the cows was pregnat and is now trying to have

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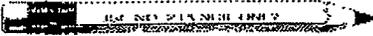
her baby. So I headed up there and helped deliver a beautiful calf, who can't walk so we placed her in a wagon and moved her mom close to the wagon. We lost one cow, during the storm so I knew we were going to get less than deserved.

When coming onto the young man's new land in California I told the group about the deal everyone was a little upset. Josh's face lit up and he whispered into Laythen's ear. Laythen liked the plan. Laythen then asked me "how many cattle were counted for?"

"3000" I responded to his question. "Did you count for the two cows pregnant twice?"

With that said I realized that I had not. "So you saying we really came up with an extra cow?" I asked Laythen who then smiled and replied, "indeed mama I think your right."

Finally the trip was over we got paid \$250 each cow for 3000 cows. This was the last cow drive I did with my best friends Laythen and Josh.



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I would never suggest such a job to anyone. It's very hard. I would always love to do it myself due to the fact running a car drive is in my blood.

GUM Score Point 2

Demonstrates limited command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Errors are distracting and interfere with readability.



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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was still dark outside, and the trail boys didn't know where we were. We kept driving and straight ahead was a cow, just one lonely cow. He looked as if he was ready to attack. So I opened the cattle carrier and got the whip. The cow wouldn't come so I whipped him into the carrier, closed the door, and hopped back into the van. Suddenly, the sun was shining and all we seen around us was dirt, cactus and hills, so we stopped the car to check on

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all our cattle. I hopped out again and opened the cage. All that was in there was the one cow that we found on the road, the rest were gone.

We were so tired that we just about pitched the tent in the middle of the desert and slept. The

next morning we woke up by some strange sounds, came to find out it was a group of Indians with swords and knives.

The Trail Boss took off running and all the Indians chased him except for one of them, that was staring at me and threw his knife straight at me but he missed. The rest of the Indians

came running at me, knowing they had already got my Trail Boss. So they started throwing weapons

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all around me. I didnt know  
 what to do? Next thing I  
 know, a sword is right by me  
 when the cow jumped up and  
 saved me. Then all the indians  
 were shocked! and they told me  
 all they wanted was their cow  
 back! so thats the day I survived  
 the trail.

GUM Score Point 3

Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Although errors are noticeable, they do not significantly affect readability.

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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

Do you know what a cattle drive is? A cattle drive is where you walk cows to a certain place. I'm going to tell you a story about the time we went to the Chisholm Trail.

There were 10 of us and about 50 cattle. I was one of the point men. A point man is just two people in the front of the cattle but out the corners. They just keep watch for if any cattle get out of line. We started our trip out the Rio Grande and were going to central Kansas. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day we were in Texas and it was getting dark so we ended up staying the night. We made a big

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bond fire and built a little fence around the cattle. After all of us fell asleep a thunder storm was coming and I woke up and it started to thunder and all the cattle started a stampede. They all started running and all of us got up, jumped on our horses and got in front of them. Then we slowed them down and got them all together. Then it started to rain, so we had to find shelter at this ranch in Dallas. we stayed there for the night and the next day it was alright no one was hurt, all the cattle was there. I didn't think we would of stop them.

That was one of my stories about cattle drives. Don't ever try a cattle drive in a Thunder storm, it's crazy. That was a challenge for me doing one.

## GUM Score Point 3

Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Errors are more noticeable but do not significantly affect readability.

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Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

One hot, sunny day in July i was riding in the back of the cattle drive because i was inexperienced. Most inexperienced cowhands were usually assigned to drag riders. I had a handkerchief on my face because of all the dust. It started to thunder and we had to get some where before lightening scared the cattle into a stampede. We didnt make it far before it started lightening. Some of cows were already starting to pick up their paces. Then lightening struck about a mile in a half in front of us and the cows went crazy, all of them turned and ran the opposite way. I didnt know what to do i was

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trained for this but it had never happened, so I never really focused on what to do if it did. The trailboss was shocked just as much as I was if not more. The drovers were riding around trying to control the cattle but it wasn't working. I wanted to help but I was "inexperienced" or so the trailboss thought. He didn't even know that I used to be a drover, so instead of asking the trailboss I went out there to help. I could hear him calling me, but I didn't care I went out there and controlled the stampede and found somewhere we could stay for the night.

The trailboss was mad, I could see it in his eyes. He gave me a look that I knew meant we would talk about it in the morning. Everyone got settled in and the night crew came out and took over the cattle. I was

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Hinda worried about what the trailboss was gonna say to me in the morning. I kept thinking I would not be able to go on a cattle drive any more. I thought about that until my eyes drifted shut and everything went black.

The next morning I was scared of what the trailboss would do. He called out of a crowd and took me behind a rock. He waited five minutes before he actually said anything to me but when he did he said "I'm impressed with what you did yesterday." I was shocked with what he said I just couldn't believe it so I asked was he serious. He said "Yes and I want you to be a driver, because that was amazing. Someone with your talent should not be a drag rider." I said "Thank you, you will not regret this decision." and we shook hands and

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left.

I was a drover on the way back because the boss said it might rain and he didn't want to lose his cattle. I couldn't believe that I wasn't in any kind of trouble for leaving my spot. It took us a month and a half to get where we were going because we didn't want to rush the cow. If we did they would lose too much weight and no one would buy them. The whole walk was fun after I controlled the stampede and became a drover. I had more friends because there weren't many drag riders but there were a lot of drovers. After that incident I became head drover and started training other drovers.

## GUM Score Point 3

Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Errors are more noticeable but do not significantly affect readability.

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## Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

My name is Ben Sterling. I am a cowhand, a man part of a group tasked to move cows across the country. It is a very hard, strenuous job, but I do it for my family.

In the cattle drive, I have a specific role. I am a right-swing man. My job is to keep the herd in a tight, straight line. I have to keep my eye out for any cows that start to wander off. Each lost cow is lost money.

In the cattle drive I am currently in, we are herding approximately 2700 cows. The date is August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863. We are moving these cattle to Boston, Massachusetts. We have been on the trail for 4 long months, and

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Each day brings its own troubles. Today has been fairly quiet, but on the trail, a good day can turn bad in a heartbeat.

After a few hours of work, I see a storm approaching. Sure enough, not too long after, we are engulfed in a raging thunderstorm. The cows scatter, and before we know it there is a full on stampede. I work with my fellow cowhands to wrangle up the scattered cattle. Fortunately, none of us were injured, but we lost many cows in the commotion.

Today was a bad day. I'm exhausted, but a good meal from the cook gets my spirits up. On the trail, you have to be prepared for disaster. But at the end of the day, some biscuits and gravy turns any bad day into just another night under the stars.

## GUM Score Point 4

Effectively demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Errors are minor and do not affect readability.

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Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

"It was a hard time in 1857," my granddaddy told me, before he passed on. The man always told me of the time when he had the hardship of being a Horse Wrangler in many cattle drives on Chisholm Trail. This is a story I must tell you all.

Back in 1857, my granddaddy's most fascinating cattle drive on Chisholm Trail began one crisp morning in April. He was putting on his long-johns to go gather eggs when a neighboring ranch-hand, who knew of his skill with horses, had told him "Sir, I hate to bother you on this fine morning, but my boss needs a Horse Wrangler on our drive. When he told me I instantly thought of you with your horse-loving skills." Now this young man, of about twenty, is very polite and looks like an honest man, my granddaddy thought. He said "Now son, I ain't as good as I once was, but I am willing to help a neighbor out. So, if I am to do this difficult task I'll need an estimate of how many horses I'll be

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"Wrongly." The young man said, "Oh, about one-fifty, sir." My grandfather's response, with a raised eyebrow, was "Well, now that's going to be a task." The boy then looked discouraged, but tried to hide the look on his handsome face. Then, my grand-dad said, "Now boy, you go and tell your boss... Uh-hm, can you give me his name?" The ranch hand said, "His name is Clark, sir. And mine is Stephen." "What shall I call you, sir?" My grand-father said, "My name is William, but you can call me Will. So Stephen, you go and tell your boss that I will do it but I'm going need some NYC rope." Stephen smiled with relief, he found the man for the job. He said "Yes sir, I'll tell him and get you that rope. We will start the drive at sun rise tomorrow morning." Then he rode off with a cloud of dust.

My grandfather, I'll just call him William from now on, rushed into his hen house and gathered a dozen and a half eggs. He fried two eggs to eat then he boiled the rest for him to eat the rest of the day while he gave his very few mares and cattle extra hay and corn. He also went and checked the windmill for a full tank of water, and he started packing months worth of rugs and clothing.

The next morning he woke two hours before

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down to meet Clark and the rest of the drivers.

After they started off for Chisholm Trail, he kept count of the horses.

The next few days and nights were as calm as ever. But a storm was brewing that they had no knowledge of.

On the eight day the sky was clouded over and in the distance lightning struck. Within the next few hours it was pouring rain and then thunder rumbled the sky and lightning struck which made a stampede. Clark back to the herd and tried to get it main steer under control, but failed to do so.

By then William with his half Quarter-horse and half mustang horse Kiowa, was galloping to get in front of the herd to slow them before the cliff came into view.

By the time he reached the front of the herd 150 of the 4,000 cattle went over the cliff and old Kiowa knew just what to do. So, William held on for dear life with his legs, for his hands when using a rope to catch the steer. He was cursing under his breath and then lightning struck not but four yards away from him, which startled Kiowa.

But the lightning actually helped out the herd had been turned away and the swing men were able to slow the

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herd to a stop and then Clark with Stephen at his side  
 came to William and Clark said "Man handy! That is some  
 horse you have there Will." William responded "Why, thank you Clark.  
 I noticed quite a few heifers went over." Clark interrupted "Well  
 now that can't be as bad as the whole herd going over  
 the cliff. I'm just grateful you and your horse saved  
 the sheep." Stephen said, "Boss, I'm going to tell the rest to  
 count up the rest of the herd and slow it down till the  
 rain passes." Clark said, "Ok, son." He turned to William and  
 said "Thanks, again." William said "It was no problem. I had  
 to be done."

So the next month or so was very joyful,  
 with music, laughter and joy. There was no more stampedes or storms  
 and the rest of the herd's made it home safely. Then  
 my grand father met my grandmother Mary-Arre, but that's  
 an other story.

GUM Score Point 4

Effectively demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Errors are minor and do not affect readability.

Grade 8 WRITING Section 2

Writing Topic:

Write a narrative describing a day in your life as if you were a cowhand on a cattle drive. In your narrative, include specific details about the cattle drive and an explanation about how you helped overcome a challenge on the trail. Be sure to use information from both passages in your narrative.

It was in 1857 when it happened. I was just starting as a cowhand, specifically a drag rider. I was the lowest on the totem pole. The others called me "Dirt Eater". They didn't really upset me, but soon enough they started "Keep up, Dirt Eater!" the Point Man said.

I was on my first cattle drive. So I guess making fun of the new guy was "cool" to them. I stopped and said "Shouldn't we rest? It's pitch black out here!" Of course this provoked the Trailboss. "Shut up, what's-his-face. It's not like the big, bad, boogie man will get us." I keep galloping on my brown quarter horse like nothing happened.

We just crossed the border line into Oklahoma from Texas an hour or two before, when the Trailboss finally eases up. "Alright. Rest here. You get an hour, then back in the saddles!" he

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hisses. Of course I sit by myself, but then I hear a noise. "Do I hear a growl?" I asked myself.

I ran to the other cowhands to tell them we should leave. "Partners, sorry for saying we should stop. I didn't think about the dangers of the night critters." They had snappy replies, "Oh, is the new kid scared? Maybe he just isn't cut out for cattle drivin'." Not even a second after that reply, the mountain lion came into view. I knew I was right. The shocked looks on their faces were priceless.

"Calmly catch fire on one of the sticks, please," I said as we all "stood" up. The wild cat was hissing and growling. Just as soon as the stick of fire was put in my hand, the Mountain cat pounced. Everyone ran but the trail boss and I. I stayed because I was going to ward off the cat. The trail boss stayed because he was underneath the clenching paws of the lion.

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"Ah! Get him off me! Now! Please!" I hear the trailboss call. I think "I didn't even know his name... I'm sure he has a family. I can't leave him like this."

"Whoosh, whoosh" the flames scream as they stir the air. I hear the lion's stress call, a call of pain, or anger, or horror. WHOOSH! I'm almost knocked backward from the wind of the lion running past me into the woods.

Silence plays its horrible song for a few minutes. "I'm alright," the trail boss declares, "But you. The Dirt Eater... Why did you save me? I've been nothing but rude to you. Why?" I had already asked myself the same question when I replied "I didn't even know your name."

## GUM Score Point 4

Effectively demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Errors are minor and do not affect readability.