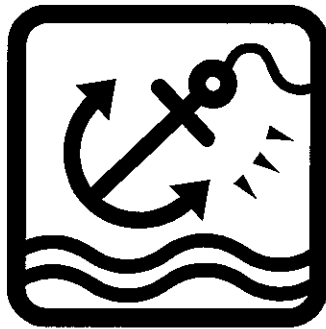


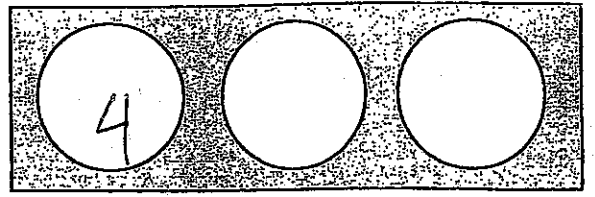
Oakland Unified School District Writing Proficiency Project



9th Grade Response to Expository Text Anchor Papers Oakland Prompt

Note: Please do not use the anchor papers with students prior to the administration of the Process Writing Assessment

Writing Sample



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START ESSAY HERE

Oakland, the place I was born and raised, is a very diverse city. As Ishmael Reed explains, Oakland does have many beautiful things to see and wonderful people to meet. In the passage of Blues City: A Walk in Oakland, Ishmael Reed emphasizes that Oakland is a very diverse city where the people could live in peace together. I agree, Oakland has a large range and variety of cultures, religions and races. However, there is far more than the eye can see.

Reed describes how Oakland has many festivals and performances that represents or supports different kinds of cultures and religions. He shows his "fascination" of how "one can encounter hip-hop dances at a festival in Chinatown" or "about a fifth of the audience at a Native American powwow is black." Though this is true, I reject the idea of the different races and cultures giving respect to one another. People may find interest and curiosity to watch the performances, however they couldn't care less about the culture it comes from or the people who perform them.

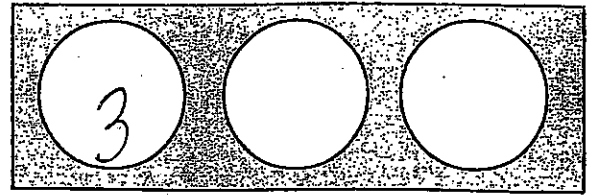
People merely enjoy the entertainment of what they see, whether it was representing the asian, jewish or Aztecs. There's no actual respect given to what the dance or performance represents, there's nothing behind Reed's idea of having ~~someone~~ supporting another race or religion.

The idea of peace, even in one city, seems like such a dream. Unfortunately, this does not exist in Oakland. Coexisting is just saying living amongst each other, it doesn't mean the people are at peace with each other. Oakland has several stereotypes, labelling and at times racism. In my family, we have friends who are black, white, latino and asian. Though we treat them like any other guest in our house, there is always a time where my grandparents will turn on the news and give a stereotypical remark. "Blacks seem to always be too dangerous!" or "Whites are always getting into lawsuits!" My mom told me, "When you get older, you tend to hang out with your own kind." Does that sound like we're comfortable with other ethnicities and races? I don't think so. ^{and} Trust me, if it's happening in my family, it's happening in other families too.

Perhaps, there's equality and understanding in our city. You look at the schools and you see all these kids of different backgrounds and cultures. They get along, right? Wrong. There are exceptions to this thought, but have you ever looked around an Oakland school? The kids might have the same classes and go to the same school, but things change. At school, lunchtime, afterschool, Asians stick to the Asians and Blacks stay close to each other. I've even noticed in all the schools I've been to, that most Latinos isolate themselves from the other kids. Stereotypes and childish labelling takes place in all schools. Sometimes, fights break out because of them. The next time you look at a school, look deeper. Yes, we are very diverse and we CAN get along. But do we really want to? Or is it just that we HAVE to?

Oakland is a wonderful place and is obviously diverse. It's a place where you can find any skin color and any ethnicity. But, when you look closer, we're not as comfortable with the people around us as you may think. The idea of true peace in a community, it's still just a dream.

Writing Sample



Do not write in this box.

START ESSAY HERE

Oakland is a wonderful place to live in. Many people travel across the country in order to visit this unique city. Some people even decide to start their families in Oakland after seeing what it has to offer. In his excerpted passage from Blues City, Ishmael Reed explains that "Oakland still hosts one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the country" and talks about the many cultural festivities that are held there every year. I agree with Ishmael Reed that Oakland is "a calaloo of cultures", but its diversity isn't only displayed in its numerous cultural activities.

In addition to the many displays of culture in Oakland, there is also a huge variety of foods from a lot of different cultures. If you travel to downtown Oakland, where Chinatown is located, you can get the chance to taste some of the amazing Asian foods served in restaurants such as pho, a type of Vietnamese noodle served in soup, and Chinese pasteries and breads made with unique ingredients you've probably never heard of! Travel a little further down to Jack London Square and arrive at Yoshi's for a taste of delicious yet affordable

Japanese food while you ^{are} enjoying the great music that is played by live musicians from the many different cultures in Oakland that were mentioned in Ishmael Reed's Blues City. Food is considered to be a great cultural accessory and Oakland offers a large ^{diversity} of food from ^{the} many cultures living there.

Music in Oakland is also a large contributor to the diverse display of cultures. Whether it be music and dance performed at cultural festivals by Native American groups or a group of teenagers hanging out on Broadway hosting a dance ~~off~~ with each other, Oakland has all the music you need to get a taste of great diversity. Annually, festivals are held in Chinatown celebrating the many holidays in the lunar calendar. In every festival held, there will always be a stage where local groups and organizations perform dances and sing songs from their cultural customs. There are also festivals being held along McArthur where there is also a stage for dances and singing performances by many different and talented people. Music in Oakland shows how diverse the city can be and many people come to watch and listen to the great performances.

Like Reed states in Blues City, Oakland is a very culturally diverse place. There are ^{many} annual festivals and

activities held in celebration of the many diverse cultures that live there. However, in addition to those festivities, Oakland's cultures are also evident in the delicious foods offered, and the different music that is played and can be heard from anywhere in the city. Oakland is a very cultural unique and diverse city, and for most people, that is the best part about being in Oakland.

Name: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____

Period: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

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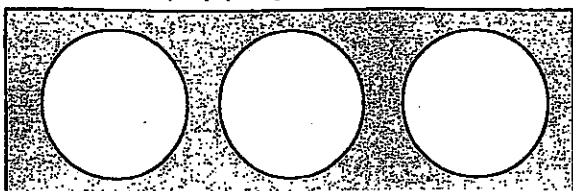
My home, my city, My Oakland, happens to be one of the most diverse cities in the bay. I know that my city has a lot of problems but but it has a good side a pretty side. In the description of Oakland writer Ishmael "From the book 'Blues City' argues that Oakland is a really diverse city. He points out that 'Oakland is a city where identities blur.' He also notes that if you go to a place in china town you can see the diversity and smell of culture, where one encounters hip-hop dances at a festival in china town, or attended to a black cowboy parade, a Kwanzaa celebration, and a powwow. Ishmael is doing what many people like about Oakland; he points out the many diversity and cultures around Oakland. I agree Oakland is a really diverse place because of the many cultures that this city have and I like that to and I like to live there my city Oakland

if cities where more like oakland
in the diverse part there will be a lot
of rich culture and colors in
every city. a example of places with out
diversity is this little town name
tulare to the south of fresno there
is no diversity in that town and it makes
the town look death because is poor
in culture and race. All of this cities
have to start having some kind of
thing so people wants to leave their
like some kind of attraction and make
the place more fun.

Perhaps the most important reason
that make oakland a diverse place and
rich in culture place is the food the
way they dress the smell of 'pho' in
a vietnamese restaurant or the smell of
tacos in a mexican taqueria or the classic american
food like burgers all this thing make oakland
a really important and diverse place in world.

START ESSAY HERE

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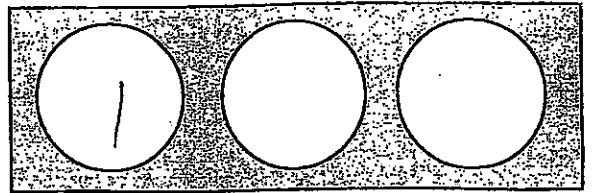
Writing Sample

page

2

Clearly, Oakland is a beautiful
place to live. It is not a city that
you will suffer from diversity there
is always a place in Oakland
that you will find at least
a bit of your culture. It's
my hometown, and I find it
beautiful!

Writing Sample



Do not write in this box.

START ESSAY HERE

In the essay by Ishmael Reed. He talks about how much Oakland is diverse. My own experience is that my little cousin is half cambodian and half black and we still love him. I disagree with Ishmael Reed, because there more than strawbany what I mean about there bad part of Oakland. There's area's in Oakland like the Murder Dudd's, there deep East Oakland from the 60's and to the 100's, and there the west part of Oakland.

There's also other bad things about Oakland going, drugs, running out of jobs, running out of money, ~~we~~ live throw a lot of the good part and the bad parts. I use to live deep East Oakland, and use to live in the west side of Oakland, but know I live in a good area. ~~so~~ I'm just trying to say that I live in all party of Oakland and ben throw all kinds of stuff.

9th Grade Expository Essay Anchor Papers: Oakland

Title	Score	Notes
<p>“Oakland, the place I was born and raised, is a very diverse city.”</p>	4	<p><i>Fluent, detailed, perceptive writing that corresponds to a 4 Advanced in these ways:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptive analysis of text. Uses an effective rhetorical strategy beginning with agreement. Continues to makes the argument that Reed’s analysis of Oakland is superficial. (I agree....however....) • Selects specific quotations and effectively integrates them into summary and argument. • Well organized essay that guides reader through development of ideas and clearly distinguishes between own ideas and those of Reed. • Language is lively and precise with a very clear sense of audience. (<i>More than the eye can see, fascination, curiosity, trust me.</i>) • Conclusion moves beyond summary leaving reader wondering and questioning. • Consistent use of academic English language conventions and punctuation used to strengthen rhetorical effect and clarify meaning.
<p>“Oakland is a wonderful place to live in.”</p>	3	<p><i>Focused, organized writing that corresponds to a 3 Proficient in these ways:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused thesis that agrees with and expands on Reed’s position. • Relevant and detailed examples support thesis; however, thesis would be stronger if evidence addressed more features of Oakland’s diversity. (First body paragraph discusses food and second body paragraph addresses music. A third element that provided more contrast to cultural activities, like industry or weather, would make this essay stronger.) • Organization is logical and conclusion summarizes. • Language is clear and sentences are varied. • The writing demonstrates strong control of conventions and uses academic English including effective use of transitions to move between and through ideas. (<i>In addition...Like Reed states...</i>)
<p>“My home, my city, My Oakland, happens to be one of the most diverse cities in the bay.”</p>	2	<p><i>Organized ideas that correspond to a 2 Developing.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to address all parts of the prompt and demonstrates a general understanding of the text • Introductory paragraph paraphrases rather than summarizes and begins to ramble. • Assertion is general. • Makes an attempt to provide some specific evidence, “smell of tacos, pho,” but does not tie this back to clear claim. Only refers to Reed’s position in the introductory paragraph where Reed is paraphrased. • Some errors confuse meaning and sentences employ awkward structures.

<p>“In the essay by Ishmael Reed.”</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>A “1” that is Emerging because the piece is too brief and too general to develop the writer’s controlling idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writer attempts to address prompt, but does so only partially.• Text is not analyzed, but briefly summarizes, (“He talks about how much Oakland is diverse.”)• Claim is unclear, (“I disagree with Ishmael Reed, because there more than strawberry what I mean about here bad part of Oakland.”)• Contains many fragments and errors. The writer confuses self and audience.• Writer makes consistent areas that confuse reader’s basic understanding and interfere with meaning.• Writing thinks aloud and ideas appear randomly.
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