

Student Exemplars

INTERMEDIATE
LANGUAGE ARTS

PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENTS
2009

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Department of Education



INTERMEDIATE

2009

EXEMPLARS

DEMAND

DEMAND

LEVEL 1

- **Very limited content which lacks clarity and focus.**
 - Piece 1 very briefly talks about being a (contractor?). Very limited content about job and family.
 - Piece 2 has a very limited clarity. Discusses dropping a wallet and having it returned extremely brief. Content is very limited.
- **Awkward and disjointed organization.**
 - Piece 1 two sentences which are awkward. No opening, closing, paragraphing.
 - Piece 2 has one paragraph with ideas and transitions hard to follow.
- **Lack of flow and rhythm with awkward, incomplete sentences which makes the writing difficult to follow.**
 - Piece 1 has no flow and only 2 sentences.
 - Piece 2 has a lack of flow, requiring rereading of sentences.
- **Lack of an apparent voice to bring the subject to life.**
 - Piece 1 has lack of voice, only says "my one Family".
 - Piece 2 has a very limited voice and the voice is not reflected by the writer
- **Use of words that lack clarity and precision.**
 - Piece 1 does not contain effective words or expressions.
 - Piece 2 does not contain descriptive words, and lacks clarity and precision. There is an attempt at some word choice with "parade" (paranoid?)
- **Frequent errors in standard writing that seriously affect readability.**
 - Piece 1 has many errors and is very brief; "contrace", "Family".
 - Piece 2 has many spelling errors, grammar, and punctuation which seriously affect readability.

DEMAND WRITING 1

It is 25 years from now...

Describe your life.

In 25 year from now I will be a
contractor. I'll have my own
house with ~~my~~ my one family

DEMAND WRITING 2

You are walking down the road when a stranger approaches you and asks; "Why have you been following me?" Continue the narrative.

I saw you drop your wallet on the ground. I bin trying to pas it back but you would not stop. Think you for pasing me back my wallet with every thing in it. I hve bin vere parade the last few day.

DEMAND

LEVEL 2

- **Limited content which is somewhat unclear, but does have a discernable focus**
 - Piece 1 has discernable focus. Content is limited. Piece opens with being a firefighter, then lists family, car, house, dog, then back to firefighter, then desk job, then firefighter again. Content is somewhat unclear. Reference to grandmother, and closes with doubt about his wife breaking up and listing content again.
 - Piece 2 describes a story in a limited and somewhat unclear about Shawna and Tyler meeting, going out, and leaving for the army. While the content is limited, there is a discernable focus.
- **Weak and inconsistent organization.**
 - Piece 1 has one paragraph. There is not a clear transition and no clear opening and closing. Ideas do not flow from one to the other.
 - Piece 2 has a weak organization. The ideas are difficult to follow and transitions are weak and rare.
- **Little flow, rhythm, and variation in sentence construction.**
 - Piece 1 a little flow but there is little variation in sentences.
 - Piece 2 contains lengthy sentences with some quotes, but intertwined with the text, and with little variation and flow.
- **Limited ability to use an expressive voice that brings the subject to life**
 - Piece 1 has a limited voice. "I would like that very much" is limited in getting sense of writer. The envisioned future is not expressive or bring to life.
 - Piece 2 has a limited voice. There is some voice in such phrases as "I really really and I mean I really really like you a lot" This is limited in expressive voice.
- **Use of words that are occasionally clear and precise**
 - Piece 1 has some descriptive words "sweet viper" "promote" but are rare and occasionally clear and precise.
 - Piece 2 occasionally uses clear words. "Jeak" "lier" "probably be visting my nan"
- **Frequent errors in standard writing conventions which are beginning to affect readability.**
 - Piece 1 has frequent errors in writing. Many grammar and spelling errors which are beginning to affect readability.
 - Piece 2 has many errors in writing conventions in grammar and spelling which affect readability "non of my bissnis" "cheaster"

DEMAND WRITING 1

It is 25 years from now...

Describe your life.

it is ~~25~~ 25 years from now
and life is pretty good.
I am a fire fighter and
I am married to the most beautiful
girl in the world name shawna we
live in a 5 bed room house. We own
a sweet viper car and be for
I for get shawna is a doctor.
we have 3 or 4 children and
a dog not sure what type
of dog but a big dog. Will maybe
be for the 25 year for now
I well probly promotion to chief
of fire fighters But I Don't I
I would like that very much give
people orders form a desk NO
I would like to be running in to
a burning house saving people.
friends I wonder if I well

have the same friends I hope so
o and New friends too. Hopefully may
Now Well be a live because she was
not Doing so good a few months ago
But she Doing good Now so ya I can't Think
of anything else to write write Now
about what I think I Well be Doing in
25 years or what will happen in
25 years But life Does not work
that way maybe ~~be~~ for Shawna Well
Brack UP With me or I Well not become
a fire fighter or have 3 or 4 children
or a viper or a house with 5 Rooms
and a Big Dog I'am just saying
life is not all ways far too you so
You Got to be Kind to what you
got because you Don't Know when life
is going to take it a way.

DEMAND WRITING 2

You are walking down the road when a stranger approaches you and asks; "Why have you been following me?" Continue the narrative.

"I been following you because you drop your ring" Well thank's BUT I DID NOT DROP IT I THROWN IT AWAY BECAUSE I realize that i am not in love with TIM. He's a jeak a liar and a cheater." I know this is non of my Bissnis BUT what happen maybe I can HELP"

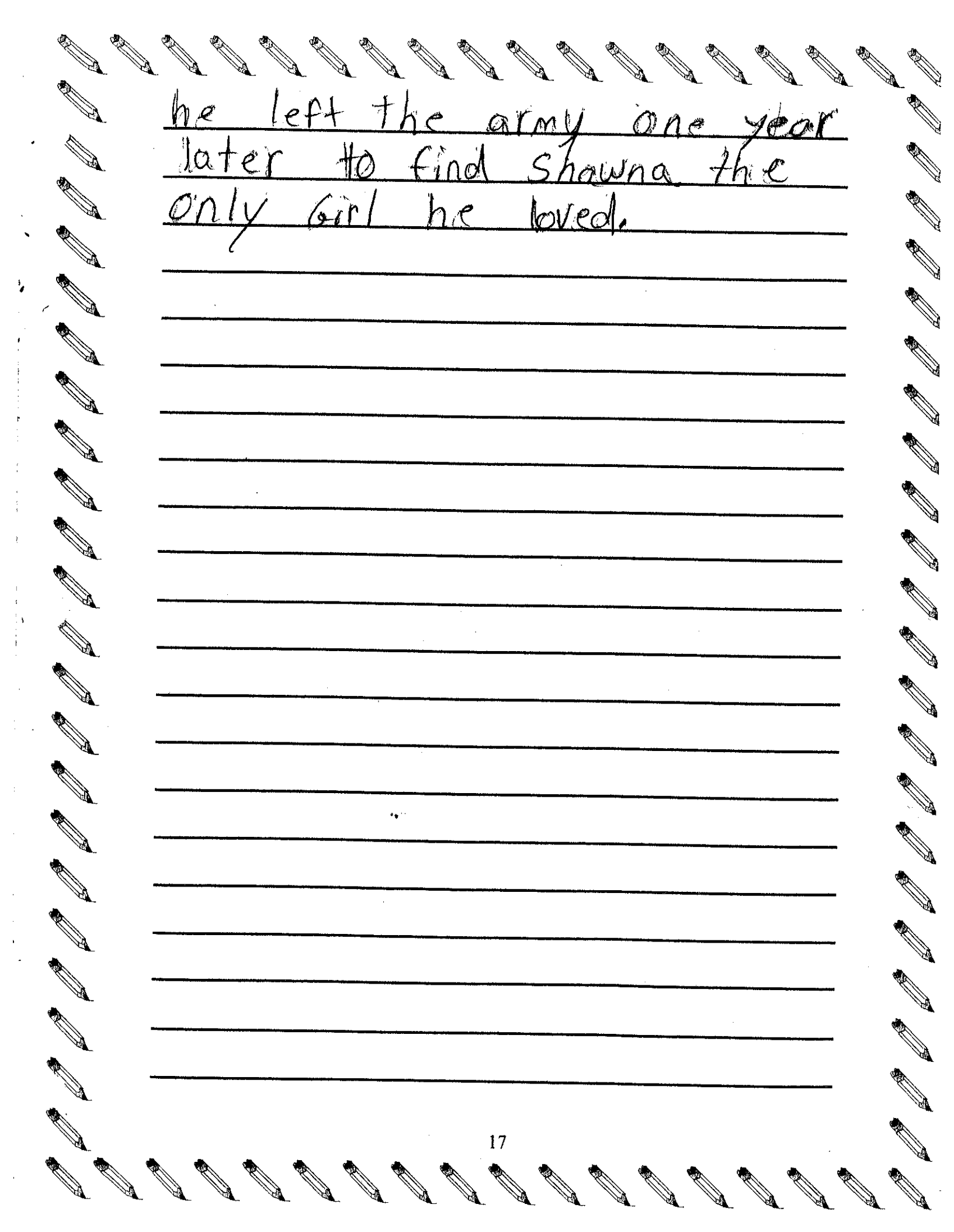
"there is a cafea across the Street let's go there and talk and By they way mind Name is Shawna and what's Yours?"

"mind is tyler" so shawna and tyler sat down at the cafea

and got to know each other very well

BUT tyler notes that shawna was sad. "they are you sad shawna" "because remember when I told you my Dad left

me and my mom we my mom
is thinking about leaving Corner
brook at the end of the summer
and your going to be gone probly
6 weeks with the army and
the last two week of summer
I will probly be visting my nan
then we will probly never
get to see each other again
and I really really and
I mean I really really like
you alot" then tyler really quickly
ask her "Do you what to go out
yes saids Shawna and 2 months
later summer come and tyler
left for the army and stand
in it for a long because
Shawna left to vist her nan
and Move off of Newfoundland
so Tyler save up every last bit
off his money and then

A decorative border of small pencil icons surrounds the page. The pencils are arranged in a slightly curved line along the top, bottom, and sides of the page.

he left the army one year
later to find shawna the
only girl he loved.

DEMAND

LEVEL 3

- **Adequate content which is generally clear and focused**
 - Piece 1 has good content. The ideas are generally clear and focused. There is adequate information about house, cars, career as astronaut, kids, husband. All the included information is adequate, predictable and generally adequate in description.
 - Piece 2 contains a general idea of a celebrity being followed by paparazzi, and content about wanting information and Hilary Duff her complying is general and focused but is adequate and predictable in content.

- **Predictable organization which is often coherent and purposeful**
 - Piece 1 has a predictable organization. It has a good but predictable opening and closure. The ideas are laid out in paragraphs which are coherent and purposeful, but predictable and little transition.
 - Piece 2 is predictable. Each idea in the narrative is explained and then moves to another idea in a predictable manner. Closing is adequate.

- **Writing has some flow, rhythm, and variation in sentence construction.**
 - Piece 1 has some flow, which tends to be mechanical. Every paragraph has predictable and common sentence structure.
 - Piece 2 contains some flow and variation in sentences. There are quotations used and sentences tend to be mechanical with some rhythm and variation.

- **A sincere voice which often brings the subject to life.**
 - Piece 1 has a degree of voice which often brings subject to life. Voice is sincere, and often brings subject to life "It will be very difficult for me to leave them" "I will be content with who I am and how my life turns out"
 - Piece 2 brings the subject to life. There are references to Hilary being followed but the narrative is sincere but not engaging.

- **Use of words and expressions that are often clear and precise.**
 - Piece 1 contains words that are often clear and precise; "astronaut", "cream-coloured siding" "astonishing stars and planets", and are generally functional in purpose.
 - Piece 2 uses words that are often clear and precise "she said nervously" "not trusting me"; "how much stress you put me under tonight"

- **Good grasp of standard writing conventions, with few errors that do not affect readability.**
 - Piece 1 contains a good grasp of standard writing conventions.
 - Piece 2 has a good grasp of writing conventions.

DEMAND WRITING 1

It is 25 years from now...

Describe your life.

No one knows what our life will be like in 25 years. It will be funny trying to guess. However, I can tell you what my dream life would be for me in 25 years.

In 25 years, I will have a home. A home bigger than you have ever seen. There will be a cream-colour siding on it with white shutters on the new windows, and four stories high. In the driveway will be two new electric vehicles; bright red and bright blue.

This beautiful home and these beautiful cars will be located in the United States, in the home of NASA. I will be an astronaut in 25 years. I will be making trips to space, discovering new things about the astonishing stars and planets. I will walk on the moon and bring a small piece back to show the world and give to

my children.

In 25 years, I will have 4 children. One set of twins, two girls, and two older boys. Both my girls will be eleven, one of my boys 13 and the other 14.

I will be married to the man of my dreams for 14 years. I will have met him when I was 20 when I moved to the United States to become an astronaut. He will be a doctor who owns his own clinic. We will be in love forever.

I will still be in touch with my friends from junior high and high school; Oliver, Erika, Katie, Tiffany, and so on. I will see them every summer. They will be my friends forever.

I will visit my family a lot back in Newfoundland. I will call them almost every night. It will be very difficult for me to leave them and move so far away.

However I will be happy. I will be happy with my career, my husband, my children, my home, my cars, my surroundings and the new friends I will make. I will be content with who I am and how my life turned out.

I will have gone through struggles though. Possibly financially and with my family at home. I will have gone through deaths in my family and illnesses.

There is no telling what the future holds for us. I know what I want to do in career choice, where I would like to live, when I want to have children, the career of my husband, and so on. However, for most of that, we do not get to choose. I might change my mind about my career later, however, now this is how I see my life in 25 years from today.

DEMAND WRITING 2

You are walking down the road when a stranger approaches you and asks; "Why have you been following me?" Continue the narrative.

"I have not been following you, I am just going for a walk and you are going in the same direction", I respond.

"That is not true. You have been behind me ever since I left Wal-Mart an hour ago. You did not just happen to be going the same way as me", she said nervously.

"I did."

"Is it because I am a celebrity? Do you want to find something out about me because I will tell you. You going in the 'same direction' as me has been making me very nervous. Who sent you", Hilary Duff replied trying to get to the bottom of the situation.

"No one sent me miss, really, I am only going for a walk."

"Okay, fine", Hilary said, not trusting me. We both walked further, me now keeping

a great distance away from her so she would not be so suspicious of me. We walked for about another thirty minutes and Hilary stopped and rested her back on a building, looking for me. Waiting for me to come around the corner, she could not see my eyes peering around the building, because it was so dark.

She waited for about five minutes and so did I. Hilary finally moved on, looking very relieved. Then I started following her again, being even more careful of being caught.

However, she caught me. Another ten minutes passed and I started to pick up my speed, unconsciously. And then she stopped again.

"Okay, I know that you definitely have been following me. Please, please, tell me what you want me to do or want me to give you. What do you possibly want

from me?" Hilary started getting upset and very scared.

"Okay, okay! I'll tell you. Relax! I am here from the show "E talk". They paid me a lot of money to follow you and find out where you live and if you have a boyfriend."

So you are just paparazzo trying to take my picture. Do you know how much stress you put me under tonight? You had me so scared. You could of been a murderer trying to kill me! Why did you lie to me? What kind of a person does that?!" Hilary said furious.

"I am so sorry. I am really not a bad person. I just really needed the money for my family and if I do not find out the information, I will not get the money."

"Okay. First, thank you for being honest and second, 2053 Washington Avenue and no."

"Thank you and I apologize," I said while she walked away.

DEMAND

LEVEL 4

- **Strong content which is clear and focused**
 - Piece 1 has a strong content. The idea of getting a higher education is well developed, becoming a church moderator and joining elected office shows a strong content.
 - Piece 2 shares a detailed, entertaining and at times humorous event of meeting Obama's Press Secretary. The meeting of the Press Secretary and details are strong. Ideas are well developed. Writing is clear and focused
- **Purposeful and coherent organization.**
 - Piece 1 organization is maintained and purposeful. Each idea moves into the next idea. Strong introduction; living contently and conclusion; following for the next 25 years.
 - Piece 2 has strong and purposeful organization as each idea flows to the other. The sequence of events leading to Obama's speech and afterwards meeting are strong, coherent and purposeful.
- **Writing has flow and rhythm, with varied sentence construction.**
 - Piece 1 has flow and rhythm and varied sentence construction. Sentences are strong in construction and flow.
 - Piece 2 has varied sentences. Use of quotes and short sentences is strong; "All day!" "My eyes widened"
- **Expressive, sincere, engaging voice which usually brings the subject to life**
 - Piece 1 very often brings the subject to life. The writer's voice is usually brought to life is sincere and engaging; "The Right Honourable Very Reverend" "my career move was more successful than anticipated" "enriched my education"
 - Piece 2 is very often engaging and bringing subject to life. "The president took an immediate liking to me" is expressive and sincere.
- **Use of words and expressions that are usually vivid and precise.**
 - Piece 1 contains strong word choice. "Enriched", "with a majority government"; "luxurious home in the suburbs"
 - Piece 2 usually has clear and precise words "phenominal"; "Pull up a chair!" "Where the golden ticket lay"
- **Strong grasp of standard writing conventions.**
 - Piece 1 has strong use of writing conventions. "I glance at my letterhead:"
 - Piece 2 - use of quotations, punctuation for effect. Strong grasp.

DEMAND WRITING 1

It is 25 years from now...

Describe your life.

In twenty-five years from now, my life will be almost perfect. I will be living happily and contently.

After I graduated High School, I went to MUN and received my Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Political Science. Then I went to University of Toronto and received my Masters of Divinity, and then I was ordained in the United Church of Canada. I also received my Doctorate of Theology from Harvard, and my Doctorate of Ministry from University of Chicago.

Approaching twenty-five years from now, I am living in my luxurious home in the suburbs of Toronto, with my lovely wife, and two small children. I had served many congregations before coming to Toronto, and I became Moderator of the United Church, and then a Hamlet's professor at University of Toronto.

Twenty-five years from now, I am reading

my fortieth birthday, and also, a Career Change into Politics.

My life, leading up to now has been fantastic. I have been doing what I love, and now with my Career Change, something I love just as much.

I live in the safest Toronto neighbourhood, a place where I could raise my children without worry. My neighbours are very friendly, and we are frequently invited over for parties and dinners.

Technology has changed, and we are all driving electric cars, using energy efficient items, and we are significantly cutting back on pollution and greenhouse gasses.

I do, however leave Toronto, the safe neighbourhood, and the lovely neighbours and move to Ottawa. My Career move was more successful than anticipated and I was elected leader of the Liberal Party, and I moved into Stormont. Within months I toppled the government and after the campaign was elected Prime Minister, with a Majority government.

Even though I went and enriched my education,

moved to the big city, and then became Prime Minister. I have not forgotten my friends. I take time each year to visit them all, and in fact some of them went into politics, one of my friends is the leader of the Opposition, and one of my teachers has become my Finance Minister. Twenty-five years from now, I think about how lucky I was to have those opportunities, and I look forward to the next twenty-five years, and I'll see where it takes me then. I glance at my letterhead:

The Right Honourable Very Reverend Doctor Oliver D., B.A., M.Div., Th.D., D.M.A., M.P., P.C., P.M.

I think about the last twenty-five years and I give thanks for how lucky I was to go this far in my life. I did what I love and I continue to do what I love, into the next twenty-five years.

DEMAND WRITING 2

You are walking down the road when a stranger approaches you and asks; "Why have you been following me?" Continue the narrative.

I stared at him blankly. "Why have you been following me?" he repeated.

I of course had no idea what he was talking about. I hadn't been following him, or at least, not on purpose. I did not even live in this city, I'm a tourist visiting the sights of Ottawa. It's perfectly normal for a tourist to go around to various places in a day. I was not following him! What was this guy's problem.

"All day!" he screamed "You've been following me around this city. The Parliament Buildings, Rideau Hall, the Parliamentary Pub, Twenty-four Sussex, the Canadian Mint!"

"Look," I said sternly "I'm just a tourist, visiting the tourist sights, I'm not following you. What's your problem!"

The stranger sighed, took a deep breath and said "I'm sorry. I've just been so paranoid lately. I'm the Press Secretary to the President of the United States. I'm organizing his steps for tomorrow."

My eyes widened. "You're Obama's Press Secretary?"

"Oh my, you're one of those Obama freaks." He mumbled, under his breath.

At this point I was jumping up and down. "Oh my God! Oh my God!" I screamed. I looked like a crazed teenage girl who had just met the Jonas Brothers.

The press secretary just rolled his eyes. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a golden piece of small paper.

"Here," he said "this is a ticket for tomorrow's address to the Commons. Take this, and get out of my sight!"

He stormed off down the street, and I just stared down into my hands where the golden ticket lay. I was going to see Obama's address to the House of Commons! I was more excited than a kid on Christmas Morning.

The sun set, and then the sun rose. I was up around six. I couldn't sleep. I went down to the restaurant in the hotel.

I was sitting down, enjoying my Bacon and Eggs. When I noticed there was a lot of commotion around the table across from me. I picked out a familiar face at one end of the table, but I couldn't put my finger on who it was. Then it hit me, it was the

Press Secretary.

But if the Press Secretary is there, I thought, then Obama must be there as well. My eyes darted to the other end of the table. I saw waiters, and waitresses and members of the Press gathered around.

I dropped everything and went across the room. The Press Secretary immediately noticed me, and had a look of grave concern on his face.

"Mr. President," the Press Secretary began "this is the freak I was telling you about."

Obama laughed. "Pull up a chair!" he said in a pleasant tone.

The President took an immediate liking to me. We talked about political issues until we had to go off to the Parliament Buildings, he gave me a ride in his limo, and then I went in to listen to his speech. It was a phenomenal speech, as always, and after the President found me again and hauled me down to the White House.

My trip to Ottawa was fantastic, and it all began with some crazy stranger who thought I was following him.

DEMAND

LEVEL 5

- **Outstanding content which is clear and strongly focused.**
 - Piece 1 is outstanding in its content knowledge and focus. The idea of becoming a neuro psychologist, traveling and marrying abroad and finding happiness is well developed and explained in great detail.
 - Piece 2 has an interesting topic. The viewpoint from the cat is outstanding. Ideas are well developed.
- **Compelling and seamless organization.**
 - Piece 1 demonstrates a flow and organization whereby each idea transitions to the next seamlessly. Introduction of reflecting upon junior high days is outstanding. Closing is compelling with a diamond analogy of life to go.
 - Piece 2 has a compelling organization. Each paragraph leads to the next on the cat's journey.
- **Writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentence construction is complex and varied.**
 - Piece 1 uses varying and complex sentences. The writing has an easy flow.
 - Piece 2 has varied sentences with easy flow and rhythm. Use of complex sentences, quotations used when speaking to the cat.
- **Expressive, sincere, engaging voice which consistently brings the subject to life**
 - Piece 1 is always brought to life. The writer's sense of the topic and individualistic view in 25 years is consistently brought to life; "how blessed I am to have them in my life"
 - Piece 2 is expressive and engaging. Writer's ideas are always brought to life. "My sensitive nose" "glow shining down on him looked like a halo"
- **Use of words and expressions that are consistently powerful, vivid, and precise.**
 - Piece 1 contains power and vivid words. A very descriptive piece. "Gossamer cobwebs of time"; "silvery vapor"; "war-torn countries"
 - Piece 2 contains very powerful words and expressions. "Smell assailed my nostrils"; "wet, bedraggled fur" "rumble of contentment reverberated"
- **Outstanding grasp of standard writing conventions.**
 - Piece 1 has outstanding grasp of writing conventions. Very few errors.
 - Piece 2 outstanding use of conventions to enhance writing.

DEMAND WRITING 1

It is 25 years from now...

Describe your life.

January 17, 2034

Today was my 40th birthday. Despite all the philosophy I can muster, I still feel a sense of doom settling over me. The number 40 is certainly intimidating enough to make me feel just a teensy bit old. I know I shouldn't, but I can't resist. Unbidden, my mind drifts back, and I can feel myself floating through the gossamer cobwebs of time, that silvery vapor that we can never hold onto, no matter how much we try.

I can see her; a young girl sitting at a desk in a junior high school. Her head is bent studiously and her pen is busily scratching away. That girl is me, 15 years old, in grade nine. So much has changed in the 25 years that have elapsed since then. I have to chuckle a little bit when I think of myself as a teenager. I was so sheltered. Growing up in Newfoundland, in a christian home, I was protected from so many ugly things in the world. Six years later, I left my home and came here to attend Stanford University, so full of hope and ambition. It's funny that I thought I was exposed to scary things

when I was in high school, but I hadn't seen anything. I don't need to go into detail. Besides, that's just one facet of the diamond that is my life. I remember vividly how my cell phone was glued to my hip. Now, technology is so advanced that there are devices that can detect the electromagnetic pulses of your brainwaves and translate them into commands or messages you can send to your friends. It's fascinating stuff, but as a successful neuro-psychologist, I know that the brain is a fragile thing and that ~~the~~^{its} chemical balance is very delicate. I believe that such technology is invasive and dangerous, because messages can so easily be misinterpreted.

~~The world is a vast and beautiful place, and I have seen it all. I have traveled to every corner of the globe, and I have seen the most incredible things. I have seen the beauty of nature, the kindness of people, and the strength of the human spirit. I have seen the world from the comfort of my bedroom, and I have seen the world from the front lines of war. I have seen the world from the perspective of a child, and I have seen the world from the perspective of an old man. I have seen the world from every angle, and I have seen the world from every perspective. I have seen the world from the inside, and I have seen the world from the outside. I have seen the world from the top, and I have seen the world from the bottom. I have seen the world from every level, and I have seen the world from every level. I have seen the world from every level, and I have seen the world from every level.~~ With so many advances in technology, I easily could have experienced the world from the comfort of my bedroom. But I chose not to. After I completed my master's degree, I decided to work with a missionary group and minister with them. We trotted all over the globe, offering our help in war-torn countries, developing nations, and countries filled with

devastation from natural disasters. It was in Malawi, in Africa, that I met Michael. I was ~~28~~ 28 and I thought that he was the most beautiful man I had ever seen. He has such a passion for his country, for the people who live there, and for God. I am so thankful that God has placed him in my life. Michael didn't want to leave Africa, but we loved each other, and God promised that he would use Michael to help his people no matter where he went. So when I went home, Michael went too. We've been married for 10 years, and we have two ~~children~~ beautiful children: Esther, who is eight, and Michah, who is five. They look like their father and ~~I~~ ~~and~~ ~~my~~ ~~mother~~. I'm thrilled with their gorgeous, chocolate skin and their sweet, fuzzy hair. I cannot believe sometimes how blessed I am to have them in my life.

So I travelled the world and ~~was in~~ ~~back~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~States~~ ~~and~~ ~~found~~ ~~the~~ ~~man~~ ~~of~~ ~~my~~ ~~dreams~~. I am now living in the States, and I love it here. ~~and~~ ~~my~~ ~~life~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~. ~~The~~ ~~place~~ ~~that~~ ~~I~~ ~~live~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~. My citizenship is not the only thing that changed, though. I've

devastation from natural disasters. It was in Malawi in Africa that I met Michael. I was ~~27~~ 28 and I thought that he was the most beautiful man I had ever seen. He has such a passion for his country, for the people who live there, and for God. I am so thankful that God has placed him in my life. Michael didn't want to leave Africa, but we loved each other, and God promised that he would use Michael to help his people no matter where he went. So when I went home, Michael went too. We've been married for 10 years, and we have two ~~children~~ beautiful children: Esther, who is eight, and Michah, who is five. They look like their father and ~~mother~~ ~~mother~~. I'm thrilled with their gorgeous, chocolate skin and their sweet, fuzzy hair. I cannot believe sometimes how blessed I am to have them in my life.

So I travelled the world and ~~now I'm back home~~ ~~there~~ found the man of my dreams. I am now living in the States, and I love it here, ~~and I love it here~~. ~~The price that I will have to pay~~ My citizenship is not the only thing that changed, though. I've

Demand Writing 1 of 2

... learned so much, and I've made a lot of progress in my life. However, the older I get and the more I learn, the more I realize how little I know. I have traveled the world, I'm married with two children, I'm a successful neuro psychologist, and I've even had a book published (with another in the works)! And yet, when I look back and see how I thought I knew everything when I was 18, I have to laugh because I know much more now than I did then, and I hardly know anything now!

~~I~~ Even though, I turned 40 today, I'm not sad. I've had a wonderful life so far, and I'm only 40! I have much, much more ahead of me. ~~This~~ This diamond isn't completely cut and polished yet. I've done a lot in my first 40 years, and I've got another 40 to go!

DEMAND WRITING 2

You are walking down the road when a stranger approaches you and asks; "Why have you been following me?" Continue the narrative.

I was wandering aimlessly through the dark alley when I saw him. It was gloomy and wet, and it reeked of garbage. My sensitive nose twitched as the smell assailed my nostrils. But I had nowhere else to go. I had no home; no warm hearth to curl up on, no dish full of food waiting for me. I was cold, hungry, tired and wet. That's when I saw him, through the moon's eerie half light. He was standing under a street lamp, and the glow shining down on him looked like a halo.

"He has a nice face" I thought so I followed him when he started walking.

I padded quietly behind him and watched his big clunky ^{shoes} ~~boots~~ splash through grey puddles. My gaze traveled up to his baggy jeans, then up even farther to his navy blue hoodie, and finally, way up to the hat that was perched on his head. All of a sudden, he stopped. I squatted down on my

hunches, nervously sticking my tail back and forth as he walked towards me.

"Why are you following me?" he asked.

I just stared up at him, my eyes wide. I could see him taking in my appearance - the wet, bedraggled fur, ~~and the~~ with the ribs poking through. He bent down and gently patted my head. I ~~was~~ pushed against his hand and mewled pitifully. I saw a smile crack through the "don't mess with me" look on his young face, and he reached out and fondled my ears playfully. I meowed again, stronger this time and stared up at him. He chuckled and said

"Alright then, come on."

He started walking again. I followed. We weaved through a maze of alleys and streets before we reached a place with lots of grass and big houses. The people who lived in those giant

boxes must have a lot of food. He walked up the front steps of one and opened the door. I followed. Once inside, I immediately noticed the relief from the drizzle outside as warmth surrounded me with its gentle embrace. Then my whiskers started tingling as I breathed in all the wonderful scents. There was food for me here. I could smell it: fish, meat, milk.

A woman was standing with her hands on her hips. Like a great brick wall, she looked unmovable, and just as intimidating. The boy, so tough outside, looked sheepish in front of this glaring female human. He must be her kitten, I decided. Her fierce gaze shifted to me, and I cowered lest I be struck by lightning from her eyes. But her social features softened as she beheld the pathetic heap of fur dripping on her floor.

In no time, I was warm and dry, and my belly was full of good food these people had given me. As I

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...rubbed up against the legs of the boy, a deep rumble of contentment reverberated from my chest. He rubbed his hand along my back and I purred ecstatically.

That night, I curled up on a rug in front of a fireplace. I felt like a real pet. I didn't know what would happen tomorrow, but I didn't care because for now, I was content.