



**PAWS**  
**Writing**  
**Grade 4**  
**Released Items**  
**With Data**

**2009**



Grade 4  
Expository  
Formal Letter  
Annotated Anchor Set  
“School Holiday”  
“Field Trip”



# Grade 4

## Released Writing Prompts

### School Holiday

Most students like school holidays. Think about a new school holiday that could be created. Write a letter to your principal about the new holiday you would like your school to create.

### Field Trip

Field trips can be very fun and can help you learn about new things. Think about a field trip you would like to take with your class. Write a letter to your teacher explaining where your class might go and what you might learn on this field trip.

Each paper you will score today was written to one of the two above prompts. The footer on each student response indicates the prompt to which the response was written.

# Idea Development

Expository  
Formal Letter

P.O. Box

Wyo.

05/05/05

Dear

I have a great field trip for our class. The place we should go to is on a dinosaur dig. There are lots of things to learn about. You can learn about like how to operate heavy machinery, pre-history, how the dinosaur died, what they ate, were they herbivores or carnivores, how they lived, and what happens to

bones when they get fossilized.

We would help the scientists work so we would get some exercise. We might even get souvenirs like a fossil or an imprint of a fossil or even a tool. There's a chance you might even find a new dinosaur! There's other fossils you can find like fish, frogs, mice, bugs, snakes, squids, whales, trees, flowers, aquatic plants, pre-historic reptiles, micro organisms, and creatures that are not alive anymore, so you're sort of traveling back in time. Think of when these amazing creatures roamed the earth. Nowhere was safe and

danger lurked every where. Eat or be eaten.  
So do you want to experience that  
and have knowledge of life before man?

Sincerely,

Idea Development	02070 Field Trip	3	The student develops a clear and focused main idea ( <i>The place we should go to is on a dinosaur dig</i> ). The student uses descriptive details to develop and enrich the content ( <i>learn how the dinosaur died, what they ate, were they herbivores or carnivores; help the scientists work; get suveniers like a fossill or an imprint of a fossill or even a tool; other fossils you can find like fish, frogs...</i> ).
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May 4, 2005

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I'm thinking for the next field trip we could go to Wyoming landmarks like Independence Rock, Devils towers, Devils Gate, and Split rock.

We could find names carved from people on the Oregon, California and Mormon trails Or see where legends happend or just go on a nature walk. And see beaver dams birds or other animals. And we could go to yellow stone national park too.



Those can be a good learning  
experience.

Your friends

Idea Development	29715010800 Field Trip	2	The student presents a main idea (take a field trip to landmarks). The response includes some relevant details ( <i>names carved from people on the Oregon, Calasia and Morman trails, nature walk</i> ).
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When we go on our field trip to Cody I might learn about buffalo bill state park and if I do I will probably learn a lot. We are going to a museum to.

Idea Development	32283013440 Field Trip	1	The student attempts to present a main idea in response to the topic ( <i>when we go on our field trip to cody</i> ). Details are extremely limited ( <i>I might learn about buffalo bill state park; We are going to A meuseum to</i> ).
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First, I like the school  
holidays. When you go to  
school you can have  
a party. You can have  
popcorn, candy you can  
even watch a movie.

Secel, School Holidays  
are fun. When you  
go home you have to  
do your homework  
then you go to the  
woods and cut a  
tree down and put  
it the living room.

third, The Presente. At  
high Santa does come  
and eats all the cookies  
and he puts all the presents  
under the tree. In the  
morning you get to  
open the theme.

Idea Development	29420004910 School	0	There is an attempt at a main idea (school holidays are fun). The details are consistently irrelevant.
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# Organization

Expository

Formal Letter

Dear [redacted]

I think an extraordinary field trip would be to go to NASA headquarters in Houston, Texas.

We could learn about the planets, comets, and stars. It would be fantastic to learn how planets are made.

We could also discover how long it takes to build a rocket and how you make one.

Another thing we could find out is when NASA was made, who started it, and what its purpose is.

I think it would be a spectacular learning experience, to find out what the Astronauts training would be before they get to go to space. Like, do they to live under water or go in a machine that has low



gravity.

So,

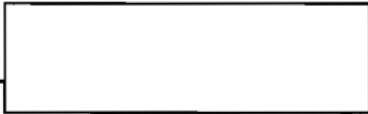
I

think we could learn a lot if we go to NASA headquarters in Houston, Texas, for a field trip.

Your Space Loving Student,

Organization	32283020140 Field Trip	3	The student uses a letter format by providing a greeting, body, closing, and signature. The response effectively organizes similar ideas by providing multiple indented paragraphs, each with an individual topic sentence. The sentences are varied and mostly correct.
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Dear



5/04/05

I want to go on a field trip to Thermopolis and go to the museum and learn about the dinosaurs discovered. The reason why is because the dinosaurs are history, ancient, and fun to see how big they are compared to us. Our class could learn about the fossils that have been discovered. We could also learn about who discovered them, how they found their names, and when were they discovered. Our class would have an awesome time. Some people might not but I sure will. That is why I want to go to the museum.

Sincerely,

Organization	30000013080 Field Trip	2	The student uses a letter format by providing a date, greeting, body, closing, and a signature. Although the student does not indent or skip lines for paragraphing after the initial indentation, similar ideas are grouped together and a topic sentence is used ( <i>I want to go on a field trip to Thermopolis and go to the museum and learn about the dinosaurs discovered.</i> ). The sentences are mostly correct.
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I want to

go on a field trip and can I  
yes now I have to go and  
ask my friends they know  
we have to ask our moms  
and dads yes. know we  
have to get a bus. But we  
have to pack our lunch and  
a canteen. But what field  
trip I do not know. ok  
I got it to lagoon  
to seven people.

Organization	29410024060 Field Trip	1	The student attempts letter format by providing a greeting and a body. Similar ideas are grouped together without appropriate spacing or indentation. The student inconsistently uses correct sentences.
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I think we should  
celebrate St. Patrick's Day.  
and sit mood summer  
brick, but have school pizza  
once a Friday, and we should  
also have Christmas longer  
than just the 1st two the  
25th. Cause that is  
why we open our  
presentis every year.

Organization

31240013970  
School

0

The student does not present the response in a letter format. Random ideas are listed together without appropriate spacing or indentation. Many sentences are not correctly constructed.

# Voice

Expository

Letter Written to a Topic

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I believe it would be extremely fun and entertaining to visit a museum in Cody, WY. We could see the gruesome shoes made of George Parrot's skin. We could also study interesting and educational facts about all the other outlaws like Tom Warren or the Sundance Kid. It would also be terrific if we could see and learn more about homesteading. I would love to see how pioneers got through their long, hard days without electricity. We could see the types of guns

and weapons they used. It would be interesting to see the minute rooms of the pioneer families. Anyway, I think the trip would be fun and educational. Talk to the other teachers about it.

Your friend,



Voice	30224025050 Field Trip	3	The letter consistently reveals formal voice appropriate to the audience and purpose. The student uses a variety of precise and appropriate words and phrases throughout the response ( <i>gruesome shoes made of George Barrot's skin, long hard days without electricity, rooms of pioneer families</i> ).
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PO Box [redacted]

[redacted] WI [redacted]

May 4, 2005

Dear [redacted]

I was thinking we should go on a wonderful field trip this year. It could be full of learning and fun. So please listen to my letter.

We should go to Denver. In the morning we could go to a history museum. Maybe there we could learn about



famous people like Harriet Tubman.

Then at lunchtime we could go to the Big Red Barn. It has a huge dance floor, a slide that is really cool that you can go on for free and awesome food.

After lunch we could go to the zoo. We could learn about all the cute animals. And maybe if we asked we could feed a lion!

At about 6:00 p.m. we could go to Wendy's for dinner.

After we are all done pigging out we could go to Boon Docks. There we could play laser tag, bumper

boats, and eat more. We would get  
back at about 12:00am. PLEASE  
TAKE US!!

Your student,

[Redacted Name Box]

P.S. If you take us on this field  
trip you will be my favorite  
teacher and all love you forever!

Voice	31849007450 Field Trip	2	Formal voice is evident at the beginning of the response but is not sustained (P.S. ...you take us...all love you forever!). The student uses some precise words and phrases (full of learning and fun, history museum, famous people like Hareit Tubman).
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Dear [redacted]

I have taken a voit in my class.  
And we want to go to Washington  
D.C. For a feild trip.

The reason we want to go is  
because. For one we want to learn  
about the white house. The last  
thing is we want to interact. sincerely,  
[redacted]

Voice

30108024100  
Field Trip

1

This letter reveals limited formal voice appropriate to the audience and purpose. (. . . we want to go to For a feild trip). The student demonstrates little variation in word choice (*white house, interact*).

In yellowston PARK, dowe  
get to go on a long hike. will  
we get to see any animals  
or plants? will we see anything  
cool

Voice	30108008610 Field Trip	0	The response lacks formal voice appropriate to the audience (student's teacher). The student uses an extremely limited range of words.
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# Conventions

Expository  
Formal Letter

May 31, 2005

Dear

How are you doing, I'm doing fine. I wrote this letter to ask you if the school could create another school holiday.

I was thinking about having a National Board Game day or a National Game day.

If we had a National Game day all the students could bring their balls, jump ropes, and other fun stuff. And besides it's better than sitting on the couch and watching T.V.

If we had National Board Game day nobody would have to do any school work. We would all get to play board games all day. But of course we would be

quiet and behave.

One more holiday is the best of them all. It's National  
Doodle day. All the kids get to draw non-stop. The  
whole hall would be filled with our beautiful drawings  
and besides what's quieter than drawing. Besides reading!

Please think about my great ideas because if  
you and everyone else approves I would be the  
most coolest kid in school.

Sincerely,

Conventions	29715026780 School	3	The student uses grade-appropriate spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (if we had a National Game day, all the students could bring their balls, jump ropes, and other fun stuff). Correct grammar and usage are evident throughout.
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New - day holiday's for school  
 I think a new holiday for school  
 is sports day because everyone would  
 get to play game's have recess and have  
 no work at all. Another holiday would be  
 all about student's day there wouldn't  
 be any work at all the whole  
 day. There is another holiday that is  
 called book day all we would do  
 is read the whole entire day and  
 we wouldn't be able to talk  
 or walk around at all the whole  
 day. Last but not least all about  
 teacher day where teacher's  
 had to do no work at all.

Conventions	32283001080 Field Trip	2	The student uses grade appropriate spelling ( <i>around, where, another, least</i> ). Grade-appropriate capitalization is used ( <i>sentences start with a capital letter</i> ) and the response includes grade-appropriate grammar and usage ( <i>there wouldn't be, there is another holiday</i> ).
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Dear ,

On one of our field trips I think that we should go to Six Flags. In case you don't know what Six Flags is I'll tell you. Six Flags is park museum they have roller coasters, a swimming park, little stores, and places to eat!

The first thing I'm going to talk about is the roller coasters they have roller coasters that spin and go up and down, they have like tubing ones like there is this one and your sitting on a big tube thing and you floating on water and there are waves some are small some are big and

When you hit the waves you get soaked. Another one you're like a regular roller coaster then when you hit the bottom it SPLASHES you a lot! There is this one that is really fun it goes really slow when you go up hill so you feel like you're gonna fall out, then when you get to the top of the hill you go way fast and it's really fun! and even more rides!

The next thing I'm going to tell you is the food court. Well the food court isn't really a food court like you see in malls where there is Arby's, Taco John's, Bob's Pizza, and more six flags is like a little cool town it has little

shacks of food places like we do in

[ ] It mostly has pizza and mabeys  
something else. It also has candy shops  
too!

Finally the last thing I want  
to talk about is the swimming park.  
When I went to six flags I did not  
get to go to the water park because  
it started to rain. I still got to see  
it so I'm going to tell you what I  
saw. In the water park I saw water  
slides tubes water waves that you  
can swim in and I'm sure a lot more!

In conclusion hope we go!

Sincerely,

[ ]

Conventions	30126024310 Field Trip	1	The student spells common words correctly but other grade appropriate words incorrectly ( <i>feld, littel, thiig, cout, mabey, sinserly</i> ), and demonstrates limited and inconsistent use of grade appropriate punctuation and capitalization.
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you might Lunen about  
 the place you might Lurn win  
 the state caply was bilt how  
 work ther plepol how help  
 bilit the place you might  
 lurn all the guber's name  
 how mency thims they had to  
 dild on to it how mency peploe  
 Live in Finney. You might Luer  
 how old the gate captoy  
 is.

Conventions	31849010780 Field Trip	0	The student misspells common words (Lunen, bilt, mency) The writer demonstrates incorrect use of grade-appropriate capitalization, punctuation, and grammar throughout (You might about the place you might lurn win the state caply was bilt how work ther plepol how help build the place).
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