

To start with

Presents

- candy
- toys
- under the tree or in a stocking

In addition

Family

- eat a special dinner
- visit relatives
- open presents together

*Color-coded
by paragraph*

My favorite holiday is
Christmas

In conclusion

Also

Decorations

- Christmas tree with ornaments
- wreath on the door
- Christmas lights

On Christmas we open presents, get
together with family, and put up
decorations.

Christmas

*Color-coded
by paragraph*

My favorite holiday is Christmas.

To start with, we get presents at Christmas.

One of the presents I get is candy. Other presents I get are toys. The presents are under the tree or in a stocking.

In addition, we spend time with our family at Christmas. My family and I eat a special dinner. We also visit our relatives. On Christmas we open presents together.

Also, my family and I put up decorations a few days before Christmas. First, we put up a Christmas tree with ornaments. Next we hang a wreath on the door. Then we hang up Christmas lights.

In conclusion, on Christmas we open presents, get together with family, and put up decorations.

Student Examples (Grade 3)

Student	About the Student	About the Essay	Page
<u>1</u>	Slow worker	Notice the first draft – changed colors correctly but no indenting. Colors made it visually easier to indent for final draft.	27 – 29
<u>2</u>	Learning disability, poor handwriting	His first draft is the first time he has put a period at the end of every sentence. Graph paper used to help him with writing.	30 – 33
<u>3</u>	Learning disability	Progressed from modeling, to guiding, to student working independently. Huge confidence builder.	34 – 35
<u>4</u>	Learning disability, difficulty w/focusing	Modeled writing the paragraph for first square, independent after that. Concluding paragraph broken into 3 sentences.	36 – 37
<u>5</u>	Slow worker	Changed colors for new paragraphs, but didn't indent. The colors were a scaffolding step toward paragraphing.	38 – 40
<u>6</u>	Learning disability	Low comprehension so depends on step-by-step procedure. Colors helped. Checking one sentence at a time helped.	41
<u>7</u>	Autistic	Interesting that he did not write from a first person point of view. Wrote about what “people” or “you” like to do on Christmas.	42 – 43
<u>8</u>	Average 3 rd grade level	Solid example.	44
<u>9</u>	Learning disability	Depends on step-by-step procedure. Checking one sentence at a time helped. Chose to personalize info in first square.	45 – 46
<u>10</u>	Slow worker	Solid example.	47
<u>11</u>	Average 3 rd grade level	First copy – some trouble with paragraphing, did not notice lack of periods even though complete sentences.	48 – 49
<u>12</u>	Poor handwriting	Used graph paper for final copy to help with handwriting.	50 – 52

4-Square

Name: _____

~~To start with~~

~~1. Presents ✓~~

~~2. Candy ✓~~

~~3. Clothes~~

~~4. under tree or in
a stocking~~

~~In addition:~~

~~Family ✓~~

~~✓ eat a special dinner~~

~~✓ visit relatives~~

~~✓ open presents
together~~

My favorite holiday is

Christmas

~~Also~~

~~Decorations ✓~~

~~✓ christmas tree with
ornaments~~

~~✓ wreath on the door~~

~~• Christmas lights~~

~~Finally~~

On Christmas

we open presents, get
together with family
and put up decorations.

writing
Holiday Essay

Dec. 5, 2002

Christmas

X My favorite holiday is
Christmas. ^{I get presents.}

X To start with, I get candy
for Christmas when I sit with my
family. I get clothes for Christmas
because I like clothes, I get presents
under the tree or in a stocking.

In addition, ~~me and my family~~
~~eat a special dinner~~ my family and I
have fun together. We eat a special
dinner. My family ~~goes~~ goes
to visit relatives. We ~~are~~ open
presents together at Christmas.

x Also, My family ~~is~~ decorates around
the house. We put ornaments on
the Christmas tree. My family
puts a wreath on the door. ✓

We hang Christmas lights
outside. In conclusion, on Christmas
we open presents, get together
with families and put up decorations.

writing

Student 1

(final draft)

Holiday essay

Dec 6, 02

Christmas

X My favorite holiday is Christmas.

X To start with, I get presents. I get candy for Christmas when I sit with my family. I get clothes for Christmas because I like clothes. I get presents under the tree or in a stocking.

X In addition, my family and I have fun together. We eat a special dinner. My family goes to visit relatives. We open presents together at Christmas.

X Also, my family decorates around the house. We put ornaments on the Christmas tree. My family puts a wreath on the door. We hang Christmas lights outside.

X In conclusion, on Christmas we open presents, get together with family, and put up decorations.

4-Square

Name:

To start with

Presents

- early
- toys
- under tree or in a stocking.

In addition.

family

- eat a special dinner
- visit relatives
- open presents to gether.

My favorite holiday is

Christmas.

Finally in conclusion

Also

decorations

- christmas tree with ornaments
- wreath on the door
- christmas lights.

on christmas we open presents get together with family and put up decorations.

Writing
Holiday ESSAY

Student 2 (first draft)

Dec-5, 2008

First draft - mostly independently (some guidance). * This is the first time he has put a period at the end of every sentence!

green
red
blue

Christmas

My favorite holiday is Christmas.

To start with ~~at~~ my brother and I open presents together. You usually ~~we~~ get candy. We always get toys. We always get ~~toys~~ our stockings of under the Christmas tree.

~~XII~~ In addition, my family and I go to ~~my grandma's~~. ~~We~~ at ~~my~~ and my family do lots of fun things together. We always eat a big dinner. I always go to my grandma's. When I go to my grandma's we open presents together.

* we put up

X Also, a few ~~the~~ days before Christmas ~~dec~~ decorations. My dad and I put up the tree with ornaments. My Ne ~~at~~ Star neighbors have a wreath on the door. On the Christmas tree

Christmas

My favorite holiday is Christmas.

To start with, my brother and I open presents together. Usually we get candy. We always get toys. We always get toys in our stocking or under the Christmas tree.

In addition, my family and I do lots of fun things together. We always eat a big dinner. My family always goes to

my grandma's. When I go to my
grandma's we open presents
together. Also, a few days
before Christmas we put up
decorations. My Dad and I put
up the tree with ornaments.

My next door neighbors have a
wreath on the door. On the
Christmas tree we put up
Christmas lights.

In conclusion, on
Christmas we open presents,
get together with family, and
put up decorations.

Start with

1 presents ✓

2 candy ✓

3 toys ✓

4 under the tree ✓

~~IN~~ addition

1 family ✓

2 visit my relatives ✓

3 open presents together ✓

4 eat a Christmas dinner ✓

My favorite holiday is

Christmas

In conclusion,

Also

1 decorations

2 christmas tree ornaments ✓

3 christmas lights ✓

4 angel on the door ✓

On Christmas we open presents, spend time with my family, and put up decorations.

eat dinner

Writing Holiday

Student 3

Dec. 5, 2002

christmas

green
red
blue

is My favorite holiday
Christmas.

modeled

To start with, we get presents on Christmas. We get candy in our stockings. Some presents are toys. Presents are under the tree.

guided

In addition we do fun stuff together with are family. I visit my relatives. We open are presents together. Together we eat a Christmas dinner.

done independently from here on

Also we put are decorations on. We put the ornaments on the Christmas tree. then we put are Christmas lights on. We put a angel on the door.

In conclusion, on Christmas we open presents, spend time with my family, and put up decorations.

This was a huge confidence-builder for her.

3/4 of the way through she said, "This is easy!"

To start with

1 Presents ✓

2 • candy ✓3 • toys ✓4 • under tree or in a stocking ✓

In addition

Student 4

1 Family ✓

2 • eat a special dinner ✓3 • visit relatives ✓4 • open presents together ✓

My favorite holiday is

Christmas

In conclusion

Also

1 Decorations ✓2 • Christmas tree with ornaments ✓3 • wreath on the door ✓4 • christmas lights ✓on Christmaswe open presents,get together withfamily, and putup decorations.

Writing
Holiday Essay Dec 5, 2002

Student 4

green
red
blue

Christmas

My favorite Holiday is Christmas. To start with, my family celebrates Christmas by opening presents. One of the presents is candy. Some presents are toys. The presents are under the tree.

done independently
from here
on ↓

x In addition, my family gets together at Christmas. We eat a special dinner called a fest. We visit our relatives to eat a fest. My family opens presents together.

x Also, my family ^{puts} decorates in my house. We put ornaments on my Christmas tree. I put up my wreath on the door. I and my sister put up the Christmas lights.

chose to
break the
concluding
sentence
into 3.

x In conclusion on Christmas we open presents. We get together with our family. Then we put up decorations.

Mead

To start with

1. ✓ presents

2. ✓ Candy

3. ✓ toys

4. ✓ Under the tree or
in a stocking

In addition

Student 5

1. ✓ Family

2. ✓ eat a special dinner

3. ✓ visit relatives

4. ✓ Open presents together

My favorite holiday is

Christmas

Also

Decorations

- Christmas tree with ornaments
- Wreath on the door
- Christmas lights

In conclusion

On Christmas we open
presents, get together
with family, and put
up decorations.

Writing

Student 5 (first draft)

Holiday Essay

Dec. 5, 2002

Christmas, Christmas

X My favorite holiday is Christmas.
X To start with, every year I get presents. I get candy, and also I get toys. I get toys in stockings and under the tree. In addition, I spend time with my family.

In addition, my family and I spend time together. We eat a special dinner. Also visit relatives. Then we open presents together! Also, we put up decorations. Next we put up the Christmas tree with ornaments. Then the wreath on the door. After the lights. On Christmas we open presents, get together with family, and put up decorations.

First draft
(independently)

To work on:

- How to start a new paragraph

["Also visit relatives."
"Then the wreath on the door." → capital at beginning of sentence, putting a subject & predicate in sentence

- "my family and me" → and "I"

Writing

Student 5 (final draft)

Holiday Essay

Dec. 13, 2002

Christmas

X My favorite holiday is Christmas.
X To start with, every year I get presents.
I get candy. Also I get toys. I get toys in stocking and under the tree.

X In addition, my family and I spend time together. We eat a special dinner together. We open presents together. Also we visit relatives.

X Also, we put up decorations. Next we put up the Christmas tree with ornaments. Then we put up the wreath on the door. Last we put up the lights.

X In conclusion, on Christmas we open presents, get together with family and put up decorations.

green
red
blue

Christmas

x My favorite holiday is Christmas.

x To start with, I get presents at Christmas.

Some presents are toys. I get candy in my stocking. My presents are in a stocking or under my tree.

x In addition My family does something special together. We eat a special dinner. We watch a Christmas parade. We open Christmas presents.

x We put decorations up for Christmas. We get a Christmas tree and put ornaments on it. We put a wreath on the door. We put up Christmas lights.

x On Christmas we open presents, get together with family, and we put up decorations.

first draft

one-on-one
guidance

independently

12/12/02

15

writing
Holiday
Essay

Student 7

age 8
Christmas

My favorite holiday is
Christmas.

To start with people like
to open presents people like to
eat lots of candy on Christmas
day. After kids unwrap their pres-
ents they like to play with their
toys. Everybody can find their
presents under the tree or in a
stocking.

In addition, people can
spend time with their family.
When you go to your aunt and
uncle's house you can eat a special
dinner. You can visit another relative
if you have more relatives. If
you have not opened your presents
yet, you can open them toget-
her with your family.

Also when you put your
tree up on the first day
of Dec. (or a few days later) you
can put ornaments on it. A few days

later you can put your Christmas wreath on the door. When you decorate your tree you can put up Christmas lights.

In conclusion on Christmas we open presents, get together with your family, and put up decorations.

Writing

Student 8

Holiday Essay

December 12, 2002

Christmas

My favorite holiday is Christmas. To start with we get presents on Christmas. Sometimes we get candy in our stockings. We get toys under the tree and in our stocking.

In addition, my family gets together at my house. We eat a special dinner. We visit my mom's parents and dad's parents. My brother, my parents, and I open our presents together.

Also, we put up decorations. On the first day of December we put our tree and ornaments. We hang a wreath on our door. I help my dad put up the Christmas lights.

In conclusion, On Christmas we open presents, get together with family, and put up decorations.

Christmas

My favorite holiday is
Christmas.

To start with I get
presents for Christmas every
year. Sometimes for
Christmas I get candy.

Every year on Christmas
I get toys from my family
or from Santa the Elves and
from Mss. Clause. On Christmas
we have presents under the Christmas
tree or in are stockings.

In addition me and my
family spend time together.

Next we eat a special dinner.

Last Christmas I want to
visit my relatives. Every Christmas
me and my family open presents
together.

Also we put up decorations.
Every Christmas me and my family
put ornaments on the Christmas
tree. Then I hang up the wreath
on the door. →

Done
completely
independently.

(First
draft)

He
chose to
personalize
this
part.

Then a week before Christmas
we put up Christmas lights.

Finally on Christmas we
open presents, get together with my
family, and put up decorations.

Christmas

X My favorite holiday is Christmas.

X First we open presents. Some of them are cloths. Most of them are toys. My mom puts the presents under the tree.

X Also my family and I hangout. We eat special dinner every year. I get to see my grandparents. We open presents together.

X In addition my mom and I decorate the house. We put ornaments on the tree. We put a huge wreath on the door. Also we put up shiny lights.

X As one can see on Christmas we open presents, do things with family, and

put up decorations.

Independent
work

-First
draft

Christmas

My favorite holiday is Christmas. To start with, I get presents for Christmas. One of the presents I get is candy and toys I find under the tree or in a stocking.

In addition, my family comes over and we eat a special dinner. Then we go to visit relatives. We open presents together. Also, when we get home we put up decorations. On Dec. 1st we put up a tree. Next we put a wreath on the door. Finally we got the lights up.

In conclusion, on Christmas we open presents, ^{get} together with our family, and put up decorations.

Did
not
notice
lack of
periods.

Dec. 6, 2002

Edited
with
teacher.
Final
copy.

Christmas

My favorite holiday is Christmas.
Christmas.

To start with, I get presents for Christmas. Some of the presents I get are candy and toys I find under the tree or in a stocking.

In addition, my family comes over. We eat a very special dinner. Then we go to visit relatives. We open presents together.

Also, when we get home we put up decorations. On Dec 1st we put up a tree. Next we put a wreath on the door. Finally we got the lights up.

In conclusion, on Christmas we open presents, get together with our family, and put up decorations.

Writing

Holiday Essay

Ornaments

Wreath

Student 12 (first draft)

Dec. 5, 2002

Christmas

My favorite holiday is
~~Christmas,~~

~~To start with, I get presents on
Christmas. One of the presents I get
is, candy. I get toys too. The
toys I get are under a tree.~~

~~In addition I do things with my
family. I eat special dinner.
I visit relatives. Me and my family
open presents together.~~

~~Also we put up decorations.
My family puts up the Christmas
tree. We have our wreath on the door.
I put up the Christmas lights.~~

~~In conclusion on Christmas we open
presents together with family and
put up decorations.~~

Christmas

My favorite holiday is Christmas.

To start with I get presents on Christmas. One of the presents I get is candy. I get toys too. The toys I get are under a tree.

In addition I do things with my family. I eat a special dinner. I visit my relatives.

my family and I open presents together.

Also we put up decorations. My Family and I puts the Christmas tree. We have a wreath on the door.

I put Christmas lights.

In conclusion on Christmas we open presents, get together with family, and put up decorations.