**Description**

**Score 4** Benchmark Paper  The writing is entirely focused on the topic and purpose given in the prompt. The paper conveys a sense of completeness and creates a clear picture of the mall. Sound organization fosters a logical progression of ideas. Each feature is described in a separate paragraph, and all paragraphs begin with strong topic sentences. Transitional words and phrases are used effectively (*Another place to have fun, One of the most interesting features, Last but not least*). Rich sensory details appeal to the reader’s sense of sight (*hairstyles, scramble*), hearing (*beeps and buzzes*), taste (*buttered popcorn*), touch (*smooth texture*), and smell (*tempting aromas*). Command of language is mature, sentence structure and kind is varied, and the voice is strong and engaging.

**Score 3** Benchmark Paper  The writing is almost completely focused on the topic and purpose, although occasional lapses do occur (paragraph 6). The paper is fairly well organized, with related details grouped in separate paragraphs. The introduction is strong, but the conclusion is too abrupt, and a few more transitional words are needed. Exact sensory details (*speckled with light, rushing sound, sweet grassy scent*) make parts of the description vivid. Paragraph 4, however, needs more details; no clear picture of the water emerges. Colorful word choice (*possibly the most peaceful place, whisper, whip, make a canopy, trickles*) and varied sentence structure all contribute to the paper’s strong voice.

**Score 2** Benchmark Paper  The paper is generally focused on the topic and purpose but has serious organizational problems. Paragraph 2 is unfocused, paragraph 4 adds nothing significant to the description, and paragraphs 3 and 5 should be combined. The paper lacks a conclusion as well as transitional words. Square dancing is described in detail, but other features of the fair are not supported with details or examples. Overall, no clear picture of this fair emerges. Except for a few precise sensory words (*fancy skirts that swirl, patchwork shirts, yodel*), word choice is vague and uninteresting (*all over the place, doing this for years*). Many sentences sound the same.
**Score 1** Benchmark Paper The writer attempts to focus on the topic and purpose but by the third paragraph has stopped describing the park. Instead, the writer tries to persuade the reader to take action concerning the park. There are few descriptive details. Sentences are varied and flow smoothly.