

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Final Draft Rubric—Writer’s Workshop #1 Piece

Know this rubric well, my friends; it’ll be used to determine your final grade.

	Approaches Standard (3)	Meets Standard (4)	Exceeds Standard (5)	Rate self:
<b>Has Strong Introduction</b>	The introduction makes an attempt to be inviting, but it is an average attempt.	The introduction invites the reader into the piece in an interesting way, but it is not a completely original attempt.	The introduction invites the reader into the piece with a thoughtful or original writing technique.	1-2-3-4-5
<b>Uses Showing Skills</b> (Josephine Nobisso explains this skill in her <a href="#">Show; Don’t Tell—Secrets of Writing</a> )	In at least one place in the final draft, the writer has incorporated interesting <i>showing</i> techniques that “paint a picture on the reader’s mind.”	In several places in the final draft, the writer has incorporated interesting <i>showing</i> techniques that “paint a vivid picture on the reader’s mind.”	In multiple places in the final draft, the writer has incorporated interesting <i>showing</i> techniques that “paint a vivid picture on the reader’s mind.”	1-2-3-4-5
<b>“Writes Small”</b> (Ralph Fletcher explains this skill in his <a href="#">How to Write Your Life Story</a> )	In at least one place in the writing, the writer has shared specific and unique details about the important topic(s) being written about.	In several places in the writing, the writer has shared specific and unique details about the important topic(s) being written about.	In multiple places in the writing, the writer has shared specific and unique details about the important topic(s) being written about.	1-2-3-4-5
<b>“Invigorates Verbs”</b> (Ralph Fletcher explains this skill in his <a href="#">How to Write Your Life Story</a> )	Several of the verbs in this writing are strong and thoughtful, helping the reader begin to understand the writer’s <i>voice</i> about this topic.	Many of the verbs in this writing are strong and thoughtful, adding to the <i>voice</i> of the writer about this topic.	Most of the verbs in this writing are strong and thoughtful, adding to the <i>voice</i> of the writer about this topic.	1-2-3-4-5
<b>Cares about Topic/Writing</b>	An objective reader would somewhat believe that the writer has chosen and developed a topic he/she really wanted to write about.	An objective reader would mostly believe that the writer has chosen and developed a topic he/she really wanted to write about.	An objective reader would completely believe that the writer has chosen and developed a topic he/she really wanted to write about.	1-2-3-4-5
<b>Uses Correct Conventions</b>	The final draft contains more than just a few errors, but they are not so numerous as to impede from the meaning or flow of the writing.	The final draft is close to flawless in its use of punctuation, spelling, grammar, and usage of language.	The final draft is flawless in its use of punctuation, spelling, grammar, and usage of language.	1-2-3-4-5

My “Uses Showing Skills” Responder: \_\_\_\_\_

My “Writes Small” Responder: \_\_\_\_\_

My “Invigorates Verbs” Responder: \_\_\_\_\_

# “How Would You Like that Penny, Sir?”

A persuasive piece of writing by Mr. Harrison

A shiny, copper coin rested in my pocket that Tuesday in September. It reminded me that life is supposed to be ridiculous sometimes.

I know a lot of people who allow the ridiculous things in life to ruin their day. As a relatively calm person, it's hard for me to understand why they do this, but I have watched and heard them in stores and restaurants: it starts out calm somewhere; then, something rather ridiculous happens, and some people choose to utterly explode, shattering the calm for everyone. I hope this short piece of writing reaches those people.

Recently, I closed a checking account in order to move some money into a better account at the same bank. On a Saturday, I used my savvy Internet skills to empty the old account of every cent and electronically move the money to the new account. The following Tuesday, I entered the bank—in person—to sign that I wanted the old account deleted. Some things in life still require an actual signature in front of a witness.

The witness—the bank employee sitting at her desk—brought my old account up on her screen. “I'm sorry, sir,” she said, “but this account isn't empty. It has a balance of one cent.” Somehow, in the three days that had passed since my online transfer of funds, the empty account had earned a penny in interest.

I explained I wasn't interested in the penny. They should keep it.

The bank lady explained that it couldn't work that way. In order to sign away the old account, I would have to officially withdraw the one cent that remained. It took twenty minutes to make the transaction work. I had to fill out a half-page withdrawal form, listing my address and phone number. Twenty minutes. I had to stand in line with other patrons who were depositing and cashing checks for significant amounts of money. Twenty minutes! When I was called to finally hand my form to a bank clerk, he asked to see my photo identification.

“Seriously?” I asked. I could have been one of those people who “explode” at that moment, but I chose to smile and shake my head a bit.

The clerk smiled back, as aware of the ridiculousness as I was. When he had **clicked away** on his computer and finalized the tiny little withdrawal, he asked, “And how would you like that penny today, sir?” As though I had really any options here.

This might have been a boiling point for some people in the world, the moment of no return, the second before they explode, **forehead veins bulging, hands shaking and clenching**. It wasn’t this for me because I was choosing to laugh at this situation. The experience was handing me a story to **lug** home and share with my wife. The story, I already knew, would make her smile that **beautiful smile** of hers that’s often the best part of my day. I would so much rather have that smile than the **surprised looks** from other people should I have chosen to make a scene here at the bank.

I smiled back at the clerk and, knowing I was adding to my own story, replied, “I’d like the shiniest penny in your drawer.” And I got it. It’s now taped in my writer’s notebook.

I worry about people who explode in public. Not only are they embarrassing themselves—my opinion—but they are **shaving** seconds off their own lives. I don’t have scientific proof on this, but it has to be healthier to laugh at life than it is to explode because of it.

The other day at the grocery store, as I independently scanned my own purchases, I watched a woman **boil**, then explode when her cashier told her they couldn’t give her a rain-check for a coupon. I wondered how much that coupon of hers was for. I wondered how many minutes she might have been shaving off her life by exploding here, and I wondered how much those minutes would be worth to her later on. Certainly they had more value than that coupon was worth. Certainly more than that penny in my writer’s notebook.

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Based on the color-coded highlighting that my students helped me with, I determined my final draft would need a few more **showing** descriptions and a few more instances of **“Writing small.”** Some of my students thought I should add a few more **invigorated verbs**, but I told them I had plenty; I explained that I wanted the paper to “sound like me,” and that when you pull out the thesaurus and change too many words, you risk the taking away some of your writing’s *voice*.