



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

## A Proclamation About Rosa Parks

### Rosa Parks Was a Hero



#### Clarity and Focus

While the essay may attempt to establish a central idea (“Rosa Parks was a hero”), it does not relate to the connection between Obama’s statement and Parks’s actions. The ideas presented are on topic but are not focused on addressing the demands of the prompt.



#### Development

Specific examples of Parks’s actions are not provided. Shallow explanations of Obama’s statement (“we have the right to stand up for ourselves and its wrong to treat others bad”) and Parks’s actions (“helping other people to stand up for equality”) do not effectively develop a central idea, and the only cited text is from the prompt question.



#### Organization

The essay does not employ a basic organizational structure, and the lack of both paragraphs and transitions makes the ideas hard to follow. A clear introduction is not evident (the first sentence makes an attempt), and a conclusion is entirely missing.



#### Language and Style

The sentence structure throughout the essay is simplistic and repetitive. While some key words are present (“equality,” “courage”), the language overall is general and sometimes improper (“its wrong to treat others bad”). A formal style is attempted but not maintained (“I know I wouldn't of moved either would you?”).



#### Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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Notes

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Rosa Parks was a hero. She became famous by not giving up her seat on the bus on December 1, 1955. I know I wouldn't of moved either would you? President Obama gave a speech on her birthday. He talked about how Rosa Parks and others made equality happen. He said that "we remind ourselves that although the principle of equality has always been self evident, it has never been self executing." What President Obama is saying is that we have the right to stand up for ourselves and its wrong to treat others bad because they have a different skin color. Rosa Parks had courage and fought for what she believed in. Obama is saying that Rosa Parks was a hero for helping other people to stand up for equality.