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Standards and Benchmarks: 1A, 1B, 1C, 1F, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2J, 2K, 2L

Block Structure Description

Descriptive Writing Assignment: Find some building blocks that you can use to help you with this assignment. Create a structure using the building blocks you have collected. Pretend that you are an architect, and let your imagination run wild. You can make your structure as large or as small as you wish. You are only limited by your imagination and the number of blocks you have.

When you are satisfied with your creation, write one or more paragraphs describing the appearance of your structure. Think about the following: size and shape of your structure, the colors of the blocks, the combination and types of blocks you used, and what things you could compare your structure to. Be sure to include specific details in your paragraph(s) so the reader will know exactly what your creation looks like. Try to use sophisticated sentence structures and effective writing techniques, as appropriate. Before creating a final draft, revise and proofread your work using the checklists provided below.

Revising: When you have completed your rough draft, revise your description using the following checklist of questions.

- _____ 1. Did I use the best possible word choices to describe my subject?
- _____ 2. Did I use sophisticated sentence structures to enhance my description?
(colon sentences, semicolon sentence, commas in a series, appositives, transitions, etc.)
- _____ 3. Did I use effective writing techniques to enhance my description?
(similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, etc.)
- _____ 4. Did I include a topic sentence, detail sentences, and a concluding sentence?
- _____ 5. Does my description allow the reader to “see” my structure?

Proofreading: Before you write your final draft, proofread your description using the following checklist of questions.

- _____ 1. Did I capitalize the first word of each sentence?
- _____ 2. Did I capitalize any proper nouns (names of people or places)?
- _____ 3. Did I place correct punctuation at the end of each sentence?
- _____ 4. Did I indent my paragraph(s)?
- _____ 5. Did I spell all words correctly, and did I use a dictionary to check the spelling of any words I was unsure about?

Block Structure Description *(cont.)*

Publishing and Technology Option: Experiment with different types of fonts when word processing your description. Depending on your subject, you may wish to use flowery letters (if you created a garden), royal-looking letters (if you created a castle), childish letters (if you created a playground), etc. Be creative.

Home-School Connection: Notice how your home is designed. Talk with a family member about how you would describe your home's outside appearance.

My castle is majestic and strong. I pretend that it sits at the top of a tall mountain, overlooking the valley and the people below. The long road that leads to the castle is made up of ten rectangular blocks, each six inches (15 cm) in length. Surrounding the castle is a circular moat created with twenty blue blocks, each three inches (7.5 cm) long. There is a bridge that leads from the road to the castle. Supported by a long, rectangular block, it is layered with fifteen thin, long cylinders that create the appearance of a log bridge. The entrance to the castle is marked by hinged double doors, which are made with two red, rectangular blocks that are standing vertically. One of the doors stands open, inviting visitors to enter the castle. The outside of the castle is made from squares, with each side being twenty blocks high and fifteen blocks wide. The square blocks are placed in alternating colors of green and blue. The roof of the castle begins at the last row of alternating green and blue blocks. The first part of the roof is made with red, rectangular blocks, lying horizontally around the top of the walls. The roof is flat and made with three levels of red, rectangular blocks. A green and blue flag hangs from a pencil that is stuck in the very top of the castle. This is the flag of the kingdom.

