

# Personal Achievements Response



Earl Haig Secondary School  
Student Services Dept  
Student Name  
GLC201-10  
Mr. Campbell  
2008-2009

Date

Student's Name

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## **Personal Achievements Response**

Grade 8 Graduation in June of 2007 already had everyone buzzing with excitement, but no one was more excited than me. A few weeks before, I had been nominated for the Nigel Williams Award for Personal Strength and Courage, and I ended up winning it that night. In May of Grade 9, an essay I wrote won second place in the Pierre Burton Writing Contest, and it gave me the confidence boost I needed to finish the year off. June marked a year since I'd been working with a child who is afflicted with Attention Deficit Disorder. Amazingly, after a year, he had learned how to write his name as a result of my teaching. This gave me a huge surge of empowerment and made me feel like I could do anything. I am continuing his lessons to this day and he is improving week to week. Throughout all these accomplishments, I learned how to be a better, more helpful person and how to appreciate what is given to you. All these things have given me a great sense of confidence and a happiness that only comes from achieving your goals. I continue to strive for improvements every day as I change and grow as a person, finding out who I really am.

My goal of winning the Nigel Williams Award was a sudden and important aspect in my life, as I had only found out I had gotten nominated for this award a few weeks before Grade 8 graduation. Even though I knew there wasn't much of a chance that I was going to win this city-wide offered award, my middle school still wrote a letter to the committee, talking about my achievements throughout the three years I was a student there, trying to persuade them that I was their perfect choice. I felt exhilarated, very happy that I was getting an award of recognition at something as important as graduation. The school had always said I was an exemplary pupil, always smiling, and willing to listen, learn and help anyone I could. The night of graduation was accompanied with a humongous case of butterflies, as I did not know if I had won. Much to my surprise, I did end up winning this award. This brought me a huge feeling of joy and pride as I went up to the stage and received the trophy, grinning from ear to ear.

May of Grade 9 was exciting and hectic as exams were, along with the promise of summer, right around the corner. As I was preparing, I found out about the Pierre Burton Writing Contest results. This was quite interesting to me because I had entered an essay into the contest in February and had completely forgotten that the standings were going to be announced in June. I remember walking into my English classroom and my teacher looking at me with a smile. "Congratulations Julia, your essay won second place" I remember there being a moment where I wasn't thinking at all; that is, until it registered. When I realized what he had said, I ran to see the list, sure enough; my name was on it, listed under Second Place. I felt great, knowing that my writing was finally being formally acknowledged. Although I had won other contests before this, it was my first big win, and this made my feel wonderful. Some people draw, others act. I write. The ceremony was fantastic and I was full of nothing but pride as I received my certificate.

My final big accomplishment was reaching a huge breakthrough with the boy I tutor on a weekly basis. He had been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder from a young age, and his mother was at the end of her rope. She had tried everything, but the boy would barely talk and was very quiet. While other kids his age were screaming and running, he sat quietly watching movies or playing with his toys. However his desire to properly communicate was painfully apparent as he would be frequently upset and throw tantrums when he could not explain what he wanted. Then, I came along and took him under my wing. A year has passed in this way, and now the boy does nothing but talk. His memory has improved considerably as have his people skills. The most astounding thing is that he can now write his own name! I am very glad I managed to help him because I feel I came at the perfect time.

I still have a long way to improve as far as life goes, but I feel I have grown tremendously over the past few years. The skills I developed will be essential as I progress toward a modern-

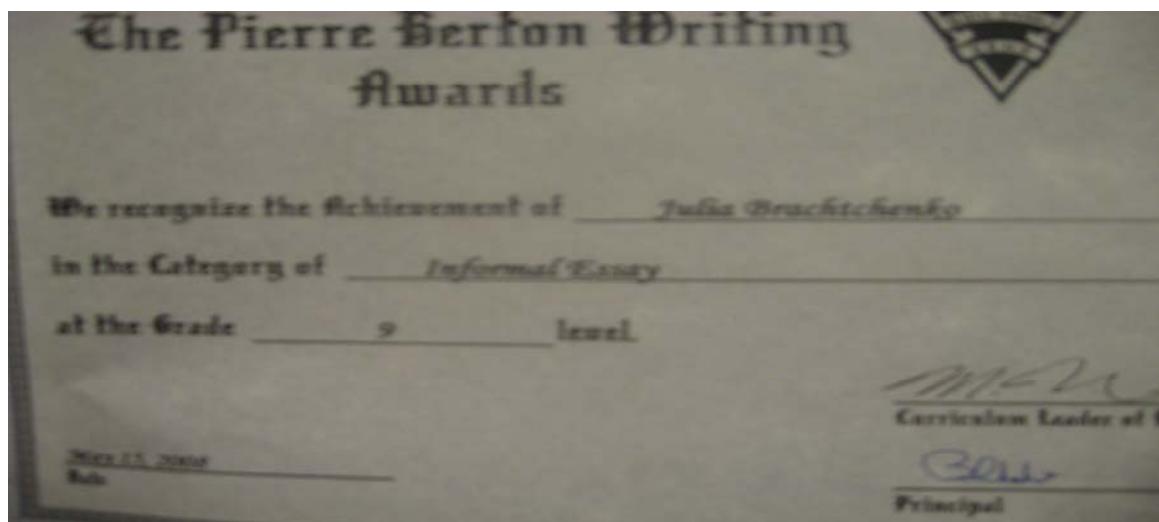
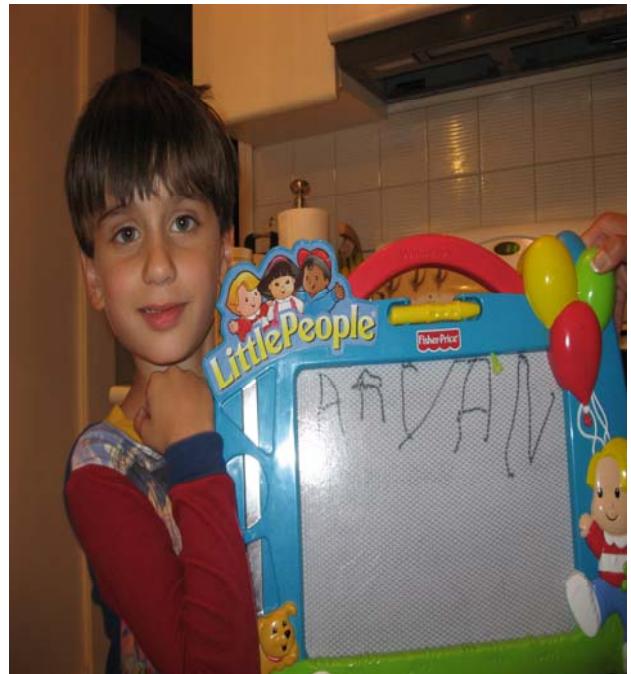
Date

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workplace. The confidence I gained from all these experiences will be very important as I will need this to get anywhere in life. Learning how to gather my thoughts is a transferable skill that everybody looks for, and this will give me an advantage. The ability to teach will also be something that not many people have, and this will help if I have to train a new employee, or teach anyone about new policies or rules in a company. Overall, I believe that these experiences have made me a much more open and confident person and I am eager to use them further each day.

Date

Student's Name



**Handout 1.8b: Personal Achievements Response Grading Chart**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS RESPONSE</b>		<b>MARK VALUE (I = incomplete) (teacher will circle appropriate mark)</b>				
<b>1. Formatting, Word Processing, Spelling, Grammar (8 marks)</b>						
Word-processed or handwritten legibly on one side of paper with double spacing		I	1	2		
Name and date at top of your printed response		I	1	2		
Grammar, spelling, good writing techniques (half mark deducted per error, to a maximum of 4 full marks)		I	1	2	3	4
<b>2. Evidence of Your Achievements (3 marks)</b>						
Providing evidence (signatures, photograph, photocopy, etc.) of your three achievements		I	1			
Achievement/Accomplishment #1		I	1			
Achievement/Accomplishment #2		I	1			
Achievement/Accomplishment #3		I	1			
<b>3. Your Written Response/Content of Paragraphs (20 marks)</b>						
<i>Introductory Paragraph:</i> State three achievements you have accomplished in your life. Discuss the importance of your participation in these activities. Highlight the steps you took to become involved in these activities.		I	1	2	3	4
<i>Middle Paragraphs:</i> Criteria for each achievement, selection process, what someone said to you, what you thought, how you felt						
Achievement/Accomplishment #1		I	1	2	3	4
Achievement/Accomplishment #2		I	1	2	3	4
Achievement/Accomplishment #3		I	1	2	3	4
<i>Closing Paragraph:</i> Express how you think the skills and abilities you developed through these experiences will help in your future career path.		I	1	2	3	4
<b>4. Creativity to Support the Response (4 marks)</b>						
A unique thought, an idea, a famous quote, a drawing, a cartoon, etc. (something creative or original to support the reading/writing)		I	1	2		
Cover page, page borders, graphics, etc.		I	1	2		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>/ 35 marks</b>					