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Summer is my favorite season. I wait all school year for that nice, warm, breezy weather to return. You can stay outside all day because there is always something you can do. The activities I enjoy most during summer are my birthday, swimming and fishing, and the leisure time.

My birthday is July 14th so obviously I have a "summer" birthday. Everyone enjoys their birthday because they get presents and have friends over, and I am no exception to that. But I truly love having a birthday in the summer because I can have a pool party, which means swimming. I love to swim, but I can't swim when its freezing cold.

Ahh...swimming. I remember when we were little my cousins and sisters and I would all go swimming in my grandpa's pond. There weren't much you could do to keep us out of the water. Then after we were done swimming we would go fishing. That was always interesting. I liked being able to just stare at the dark blue water and wait for my line to jiggle, and get a bite. The only part I didn't like was the bait...a.k.a. the worm. But I grew out of that, it doesn't really bother me now. But I also really enjoy the leisure time of summer.

Leisure time is probably the best part of summer. I don't have the hassle of school breathing down my back. I can do whatever I want like float trips, the fair, and my favorite, warped tour. The float trips are kind of a tradition with our family. We camp out then float down the river all day, its truly a blast. And then there is the fair. I like going to the fair to catch up with friends that I haven't seen since school let out. Finally there's warped tour. It is an amazing concert with a ton of bands. I go to St. Louis to listen to the bands and it is an all day thing. I can't wait to go back.

So summer is my favorite season because of my birthday, swimming and fishing, and the wonderful leisure time. If there is one thing I have learned though it is that summer comes and goes. All I want is for it to stay a while.

Organization/Purpose: Score 4

- Controlling idea: the final sentence of the introductory paragraph identifies a list of specific facts and activities that make summer the writer's favorite season. This becomes the governing idea: it is somewhat formulaic but works as a main idea.
- The first sentence of each body paragraph introduces the three elements that make summer the favorite of the writer, as listed in the last sentence of the first paragraph; this organizational strategy works.
- The concluding paragraph returns to and reiterates the controlling idea identified at the end of the introductory paragraph.

Evidence/Elaboration: Score 3

- The support is adequate and relevant but sometimes general: for example, the writer states "We would go fishing. That was always interesting" and "I go to St. Louis and listen to the bands and it is an all day thing. I can't wait to go back" rather than writing more specifically.
- The vocabulary is appropriate but rarely as precise as the diction in a "4" essay.
- The style is appropriate but somewhat mundane, not particularly individual or exceptional.
- The elaborative techniques used are primarily anecdotal and don't include as much specific descriptive language and imagery as the "4" essays.

Conventions: Score 2

- Sentence formation is correct.
- Few errors in punctuation, grammar, and usage.