

Scoring Guide for Long Writing Topic Development
Section IV News Report Question 1

50

News Report
Topic Development
Code 50

Storm Shuts Down Region

- Last December **city** in Ontario suffered at the hands of Mother Nature. There was a huge snowstorm that left the citizens buried under four feet of snow.
- Schools and workplaces had to be shut down so the city could decide what to do and how to fix the mess.
- "It took me over three hours to clear my driveway, and another half hour to clear my car," says one citizen, **name**.
- Another local citizen, **name**, gave us his thoughts. "I woke up the first morning and looked out the window. My first thought was 'the kids are going to have a snowday'. Then I got a call from my boss telling me not to come in today. My wife got the day off too. We spent the rest of the day trying to clear our driveway."
- A man who helped plough the roads gave us his opinion as well. "The snow on the roads was four feet deep and heavy. It took over three days and a million dollars to get it all cleared up."
- The people of **city** really suffered the wrath of Mother Nature. Fortunately no one was hurt and no basements flooded.



Annotation:

There is a clear and consistent focus on an event (*huge snowstorm*). There are sufficient and specific supporting details (*four feet of snow, Mary Hathaway, Logan Hodd, three hours, another half hour, a million dollars, basements flooded*). Quotations add additional details (personal perspectives from a citizen and a man who ploughs the road). Organization is logical. The final paragraph returns to the idea of "Mother Nature" from the first paragraph.

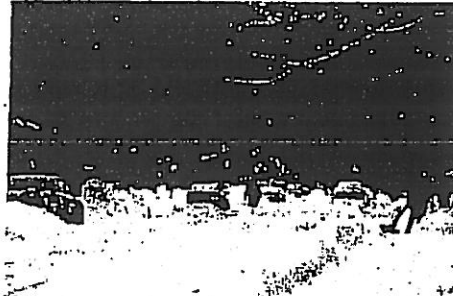
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60

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On Tuesday March 8th a snowstorm hit the southern coast of Ontario, shutting down many of the work areas. The storm that started from Vancouver hit at 24 km/h and reached city closing down many regions, specially the region. Weather official, Mary Kate says: "Canada can be unpredictable but we weren't expecting this huge amount this late in the year." The storm closed down schools, banks and even universities. "The problem is that we weren't even warned about it so, we were very unprepared. We actually didn't have our equipment handy when we first heard about it" say name, one of the regions experts in snow management. The storm caused many cars to get stuck in the road for as much as 2 hours. "The depth of 170 cm of snow is the most shocking snow disaster we have ever had since 1938," says old Jack, one of the senior citizens. Due to this disaster many plans, meetings and lessons were delayed. Students were reluctant not to even attempt going to school after one student, name, slipped into a 60 cm wide hole and broke her leg. "It was very scary as I was trying to break free from the whole and my body was half buried in snow" she says. The mayor of city declared this day "zero day" since nothing could get done. "I guess this is a wakeup call that we need to always be prepared for snow," he said. After all Canadian weather has always had a remarkable history.



Annotation:

There is a clear and consistent focus on an event (snowstorm). Sufficient specific supporting details (southern coast of Ontario, Vancouver, 24 km/h, York Region, Mary Kate, 170 cm, 1978, 50 cm) are thoughtfully chosen to develop the news report. Organization is coherent. Quotations are effectively placed. Final statement is an effective conclusion, connecting to the ideas in the response.