

Realizing Change Answer Key

Teachers should look for:

- A real personal moment that clearly shows a shift in thinking or behavior.
- Strong narrative elements, including concrete details and emotional honesty.
- Reflection that moves beyond the event and explains why it mattered.
- A clear theme connected to growth, understanding, or meaningful change.
- A structured essay with coherent paragraphs, transitions, and purposeful insight.

Teacher's Guide

- Emphasize that reflective narratives require both **storytelling** and **interpretation**. Students should not only describe what happened but also why it mattered.
- Model how to use reflective sentence starters such as: This moment taught me... I realized that... Looking back, I understand...
- Differentiate by providing planning templates for students who need structure or offering an optional outline with exposition, key moment, reflection, and thematic statement.
- Increase engagement by letting students discuss possible themes before writing, such as identity, resilience, self control, or responsibility.
- Extend by having students revise their essay to strengthen the reflective section, ensuring the connection between event and theme is clear and meaningful.