Grade 9 Scoring Sampler Passage and Prompt

Read the "When Walking the Dog Goes Wrong" passage.

When Walking the Dog Goes Wrong

Alicia was working hard to finish her paper for Ms. Lily's freshman English class. She found herself in a little bit of trouble because she still had a lot of work to do, and now she only had the weekend to finish. She really wanted to do a good job on the paper so that she could earn a good grade, but she was having a hard time focusing. She was working at the dining room table when her dog, Archie, came and sat down by her side. She was trying hard not to get distracted, but Archie was really cute as he stared at her with his adorable puppy-dog eyes. Maybe she could just take him for a walk and then come right back and finish her work. What happened next is kind of unbelievable. She wasn't sure if she could even explain this to Ms. Lily. All she knew was that it was suddenly 8 p.m. on Sunday and her paper wasn't done.



Photograph, "African American woman working on computer with Dog Near" by Samson Katt, from Pexels. In the public domain.

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Writing Prompt

Use your imagination to write a new story about what happens while Alicia is walking the dog, including why she is unable to finish writing her paper, and what happens when she tells Ms. Lily the reason why.

Manage your time carefully so you can

- plan
- write
- revise
- edit

Be sure to include

- a plot with a beginning, middle, and end
- character development
- a descriptive ending

Your response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph story. Write your story in the space below.