

Writing Exercise #1  
***Standing Ground***, The Book

**READ** the following quote from Clarisa in *Standing Ground*:

-----  
*I can't wait until my fifteenth birthday next month! Gosh, it is gonna be great. Finally, I'm going to be a woman. All my primas in Mexico had such nice parties. My friends' fifteen parties in Houston have been wonderful too. I hope Mamá lets me stay out real late on weekends. Man, that would be awesome!*  
-----

Special events in a person's life can be very important and can affect how they view life. **WRITE** an essay explaining the importance of special events in a person's life and how that event can affect them in a positive or negative way in the future. Please limit your essay to the page given.

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences