The student:
Year Level: Year 10 girl
Background:
Language: Vietnamese
Schooling: 1 term at Language School. In Australia < 1 year

The task – Students had read a factual text about a butler. They had to transform the information from the text into a different genre. The task was done in the computer room, and students had only one period to complete their text.

The text shows that the student:

- understands how the purpose and audience of a text can influence the content and form of the writing (note, the original text included the author’s address and signature)
- has most success with short simple sentences
- can plan and sequence information for this text type
- uses English grammar appropriate to the text type (i.e. past tense for recount) but makes some incorrect choices
- uses subject-verb agreement with variable control
- attempts compound sentences, but these sometimes break down

Dear Mr Nutt,

I am writing this letter about a butler called Tibbs. He is one of the best butlers in the world. He is working for Monsieur Estragon in France. Tibbs is very polite and smart. He is responsible for the house services. Monsieur wanted to make a party and he told the butler to organize it for him. He bought the best wine of France to serve Monsieur Estragon’s guest. He argued with his butler about the wine, because he told him not to drink the good wine with vinegar in front of all Monsieur’s guests. Monsieur Estragon was embarrassed and screamed at him. The Butler brought the bad wine out. He and the chef drank all the good and expensive wine. He knew that no one would realize that, because of the vinegar. After the party the butler and the chef quit their jobs and went away. They took the rest of the good wine with them and never came back.

This text is an example of a student beginning to work towards the Standard at S3. She has attempted a different text type appropriate to purpose and audience as an independent writer. She uses general punctuation conventions correctly (e.g. capital letters, full stops). She shows a growing awareness of social and cultural sensibilities in word choice but may still miss many more subtle nuances.