

## Narrative Writing Rubric

**Directions:** Score the paper by circling the appropriate rubric scale score for each criteria item. To arrive at a single score, determine the mode or median based on all the scores. For items that are weighted double, input the score twice in your calculations.

<b>General</b>	<b>Task, Purpose, and Audience</b> Adhere to task, purpose, and audience.	<i>Clear focus on the narrative task, purpose, and audience</i>		<i>Mostly clear focus on the narrative task, purpose and audience</i>		<i>Somewhat focused on narrative task, purpose, and audience</i>		<i>Unaware of task, purpose, and audience</i>		--	
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	4.0
	<b>Title</b> Include an original or creative title that captures the story.	<i>Sophisticated title captures the story in a distinctive and creative way</i>		<i>Captures story in an original or creative way</i>		<i>Conveys story in a straightforward way</i>		<i>Confusing tie to story; unoriginal</i>		<b>No title</b>	
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	
<b>Story Elements and Literary Devices</b>	<b>Narrator/Point of View</b> Introduce the narrator; establish and maintain a consistent point of view	<i>Introduces a narrator and establishes and maintains a consistent point of view; may effectively use multiple points of view for stylistic effect</i>		<i>Introduces a narrator and establishes and maintains a consistent point of view</i>		<i>Narrator somewhat unclear; point of view can get off track occasionally</i>		<i>Narrator unclear; point of view inconsistent and confusing</i>		--	
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	
	<b>Engagement and Context</b> Engage readers; present setting and characters.	<i>Entirely engaging opening draws in readers and presents main setting and characters in a sophisticated way</i>		<i>Engaging opening draws in readers and presents main setting and characters</i>		<i>Opening attempts to engage; somewhat presents main setting and characters</i>		<i>Lacks engagement; reader unclear about main setting and characters</i>		<b>No engagement; incomplete context</b>	
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	
	<b>Central Conflict</b> Present central conflict.	<i>Central conflict clearly identifiable to set the story in motion; sophisticated</i>		<i>Central conflict identifiable to set the story in motion</i>		<i>Central conflict somewhat stated</i>		<i>Central conflict weak</i>		<b>No central conflict</b>	
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	

**Narrative Writing Rubric**

<b>Story Elements and Literary Devices</b> (cont'd.)	<b>Plot development and event sequence</b> Create original plot that is well-paced and developed; sequence events that unfold naturally and logically	<i>Highly original and clearly well-paced and developed plot; sequence unfolds naturally and logically; may effectively include multiple plotlines, flashbacks or flash-forward events</i>		<i>Original, clearly well-paced and developed plot; events sequenced logically</i>		<i>Plot original in some places and predictable in other places; somewhat paced and developed; somewhat logically sequenced</i>		<i>Restates existing plot; halted pace; undeveloped with many holes; weak or haphazard sequence; difficult to follow</i>		<i>Length not adequate for development</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Suspense/Climax</b> Build tension through well-crafted suspense; present climax to show the turning point	<i>Highly effective and sophisticated use of suspense to build tension; captivating climax represents clear turning point</i>		<i>Somewhat suspenseful; climax shows the turning point</i>		<i>Attempts suspense and climax</i>		<i>Little suspense; climax unclear and weak; somewhat boring</i>		<i>No suspense or climax</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Dialogue and Dialogue Tags</b> Use purposeful dialogue to move the plot forward by revealing feelings, interactions between characters, reactions to setting or events; include dialogue tags, as needed, to describe reactions, gestures, or movements.	<i>Meaningful, sophisticated dialogue moves plot forward by developing events or characters' reactions, actions, thoughts, and feelings; dialogue tags enhance the dialogue and serve a clear purpose</i>		<i>Dialogue meaningfully and adequately moves plot forward; dialogue tags enhance the dialogue</i>		<i>Sometimes includes unnecessary dialogue, too much dialogue, or not enough; dialogue tags weak</i>		<i>Little dialogue fails to move the plot forward or it confuses readers; perfunctory, confusing, or irrelevant dialogue tags</i>		<i>No dialogue</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Dialect</b> Signify information about a character, such as geographical origin, social status, bias, or era	<i>Effective and sophisticated use of dialect to reveal information about characters</i>		<i>Dialect reveals more information about a character</i>		<i>Attempts dialect</i>		<i>Incorrect or confusing dialect</i>		<i>No dialect used</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0

**Narrative Writing Rubric**

	<b>Resolution</b> Resolve the central conflict and answer questions readers might have.	<i>Central conflict resolved completely; sophisticated</i>		<i>Central conflict resolved with no unanswered questions</i>		<i>Central conflict mostly resolved</i>		<i>Weak ending or appears abrupt</i>		<i>No resolution</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
<b>Description</b>	<b>Vocabulary</b> Use precise and accurate vocabulary; avoid unnecessary repetition.	<i>Consistently precise and accurate vocabulary; sophisticated language; little or no repetition unless used for stylistic effect</i>		<i>Precise and accurate vocabulary; minor unnecessary repetition</i>		<i>Adequate choice and usage of words; some unnecessary repetition</i>		<i>Rarely uses precise words; many instances of inaccurate word usage; noticeable unnecessary repetition</i>		<i>Replete with simplistic language</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Figurative Language and Description</b> Use relevant types of figurative language—imagery, simile, metaphor, personification—and description to vividly portray events, settings, and characters	<i>Varied, sufficient, and sophisticated use of relevant figurative language and descriptive detail for events, settings, and characters</i>		<i>Generally varied and sufficient use of relevant figurative language and descriptive detail</i>		<i>Limited, superficial, or repetitive (e.g., only similes) use of figurative language or descriptive detail</i>		<i>Rare, confusing, or irrelevant use of figurative language and descriptive detail</i>		<i>No figurative language or description</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
<b>Sentence Structure and Transitions</b>	<b>Run-On and Fragments</b> Produce complete sentences; no run-ons or fragments	<i>Minimal or no errors; may have intentional use of run-ons or fragments for stylistic effect</i>		<i>Minor errors</i>		<i>Some errors</i>		<i>Serious errors hinder reading; unaware of sentence structure or transitional use</i>		
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Sentence Beginning Variety</b> Include a variety of sentence beginnings	<i>Thoughtful, consistent, and sophisticated use of a variety of sentence beginnings (for example, subjects, prepositional phrases, adverbs, dependent clauses)</i>		<i>Variety of sentence beginnings used</i>		<i>Some sentences begin in the same way</i>		<i>Most or all sentences begin in the same way by either the same word or the same type (e.g., all subjects)</i>		
4.0		3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	

From *(Re)Designing Narrative Writing Units* by Kathy Glass (Solution Tree, 2018)

**Narrative Writing Rubric**

<b>Sentence Structure and Transitions</b> (cont'd.)	<b>Sentence Patterns and Parallelism</b> Vary sentence types for rhythm and style; use parallelism effectively	<i>Thoughtful, consistent, and sophisticated use of varied sentence structure including parallelism</i>		<i>Mostly varies sentence structure; includes parallelism</i>		<i>Most sentences have the same sentence structure so there is little cadence; incorrect parallel construction</i>		<i>All sentences are simple and / or compound; no parallelism</i>		
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Transitions</b> Connect sentences and paragraphs with appropriate and varied transitions to make writing flow, convey event sequence, and signal shifts in time and place.	<i>Sophisticated and appropriate use of varied transitional words, phrases, and clauses convey event sequence and signal time or place shifts</i>		<i>Mostly appropriate use of varied transitions</i>		<i>Somewhat appropriate use of transitions</i>		<i>Weak use of transitions; additional or more appropriate transitions needed</i>		<i>No transitions; choppy</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
<b>Grammar and Conventions</b>	<b>Grammar</b> Use proper grammar except intentionally for stylist effect.	<i>Minimal or no errors</i>		<i>Minor errors</i>		<i>Some errors</i>		<i>Serious errors; hinders reading</i>		
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Spelling</b> Spell correctly.	<i>Minimal or no errors</i>		<i>Minor errors</i>		<i>Some errors</i>		<i>Serious errors; hinders reading</i>		
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Punctuation</b> Punctuate correctly.	<i>Minimal or no errors</i>		<i>Minor errors</i>		<i>Some errors</i>		<i>Serious errors; hinders reading</i>		
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
	<b>Capitalization</b> Use correct capitalization.	<i>Minimal or no errors</i>		<i>Minor errors</i>		<i>Some errors</i>		<i>Serious errors; hinders reading</i>		
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0

**Narrative Writing Rubric**

	<b>Paragraphing</b> Know when to begin new paragraphs and how to indent them.	<i>Paragraphing and indenting completely intact</i>		<i>Mostly all correct usage of paragraphing and indenting</i>		<i>Some paragraphing errors</i>		<i>Writer unclear about paragraphing</i>		<i>Multiple paragraph paper reduced to one paragraph</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0
<b>Format</b>	<b>Formatting</b> Adhere to proper formatting for margins, heading, and font style and size; writes neatly and clearly	<i>Completely adheres to proper formatting; legible</i>		<i>Mostly adheres to proper formatting; legible</i>		<i>Somewhat adheres to proper formatting; sloppy handwriting</i>		<i>Altogether weak formatting that confuses and distracts readers; handwriting disrupts reading in some places</i>		<i>No format; handwriting illegible</i>
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0