

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.

General	Task, Purpose, and Audience 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
	Title 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>		No title	
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	
Story Elements and Literary Devices	Narrator/Point of View 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	
	Engagement and Context 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>		No engagement; incomplete context	
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	
	Central Conflict 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>		No central conflict	
		4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	

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Story Elements and Literary Devices (cont'd.)	Plot development and event sequence 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
	Suspense/Climax 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
	Dialogue and Dialogue Tags 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
	Dialect 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

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	Resolution 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
Description	Vocabulary 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
	Figurative Language and Description 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
Sentence Structure and Transitions	Run-On and Fragments 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
	Sentence Beginning Variety 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)

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Sentence Structure and Transitions (cont'd.)	Sentence Patterns and Parallelism 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
	Transitions 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
Grammar and Conventions	Grammar 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
	Spelling 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
	Punctuation 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
	Capitalization 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

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	Paragraphing 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
Format	Formatting 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