

6-Point Rubric for Narrative Writing

Use this rubric as guide for assessing your narrative writing. Refer to it whenever you want to improve your writing.

Ideas

- 6 The narrative shares a memorable event. Details bring the essay to life.
- 5 The writer shares an interesting experience. Specific details help maintain interest.
- 4 The writer tells about an interesting experience. Details need to show, not tell.
- 3 The writer should focus on one event. Some details do not relate to the essay.
- 2 The writer should focus on one experience. More details are needed.
- 1 The writer should select an experience and provide details.

Organization

- 6 The structure of the narrative makes it enjoyable and easy to read.
- 5 The narrative has a clear beginning, middle, and ending. Transitions are helpful.
- 4 For the most part, the narrative is organized. Most of the transitions are helpful.
- 3 The order of events must be corrected. More transitions are needed.
- 2 The beginning, middle, and ending all run together. The order is unclear.
- 1 The narrative must be organized.

Voice

- 6 The writer's voice captures the experience for the reader.
- 5 The writer's voice sounds natural. Dialogue helps hold the reader's interest.
- 4 The writer's voice creates interest in the essay, but dialogue needs to sound more natural.
- 3 The writer's voice can usually be heard. More dialogue is needed.
- 2 The voice is weak. Dialogue is needed.
- 1 The writer sounds uninvolved or disinterested in the essay.

Word Choice

- 6 The writer's excellent word choice creates a vivid picture of the event.
- 5 Specific nouns, verbs, and modifiers create clear images and feelings.

- 4 Some stronger nouns, verbs, and/or modifiers would create a clearer picture.
- 3 More specific nouns, verbs, and modifiers would paint a clearer picture of the event.
- 2 Better words are needed. Words are overused or too general to paint a clear picture.
- 1 The writer has not considered word choice or has used words incorrectly.

Sentence Fluency

- 6 The sentences are skillfully written to hold the reader's interest.
- 5 The sentences show variety and are easy to understand.
- 4 The sentences are varied, but some should flow more smoothly.
- 3 A better variety of sentences is needed. Sentences do not flow smoothly.
- 2 Many incomplete or short sentences make the writing choppy.
- 1 Few sentences are written well. Help is needed.

Conventions

- 6 The narrative has no errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.
- 5 The narrative has a few minor errors in punctuation, grammar, or spelling.
- 4 The narrative has some errors that may distract the reader.
- 3 The narrative has several errors.
- 2 Numerous errors make the narrative hard to read and confusing.
- 1 Help is needed to find errors and make corrections.