Narrative Writing Rubric

7th Grade English Language Arts

Rubric Scoring Key	Fully meets (4) All criteria present in the writing	Mostly meets (3) Most criteria present, with some misunderstandings	Partially meets (2) Criteria attempted, but major misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate

Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Event Sequence Includes all key components of the narrative arc: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution; paragraphing uses transitional words, phrases, and clauses to support flow, pacing, and meaning, including shifts to new events or changes in speaker	4 3 2 1	
Point of View Establishes and maintains a clear and consistent narrator or point of view that shapes how events are experienced and how the conflict and plot develop	4 3 2 1	
Setting Introduces and develops the setting using multiple sensory details to directly and indirectly describe the place and time of the narrative; uses precise adjectives to describe the mood or atmosphere and advance the plot or characters' actions	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
Character(s) Introduces and develops one or more dynamic characters through actions, thoughts, dialogue, and direct and indirect description; shows how characters' responses to events contribute to the development of the plot or conflict	4 3 2 1	

Plot	4 3 2 1	
Introduces characters, setting, and context; builds a sequence of events that unfolds naturally and logically through character challenges and conflicts; ends with a resolution that reflects on the narrated experiences and events		
Precise Language	4 3 2 1	
Uses precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture action; create emotion, tone, and mood; help the reader visualize experiences and events		
Dialogue	4 3 2 1	
Uses natural-sounding dialogue for a variety of purposes, such as character development, advancing the plot, building the conflict, providing background information, or creating suspense; includes a variety of dialogue tags that show how the characters are speaking		

Language	Rubric Score	Notes
Literary Devices	4 3 2 1	
Uses figurative language and literary techniques (such as simile, metaphor, or personification) to enhance meaning and mood		
Grammar	4 3 2 1	
Demonstrates consistent command of grade-level grammar and usage, which enhances clarity and contributes to the overall meaning of the narrative, including cumulative adjectives, use of phrases and clauses, and varied sentence structure		
Conventions	4 3 2 1	
Applies correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization that support the clarity and flow of the writing		