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| Narrative 4 Point Scoring Guide | | |
| Score | Criteria | Category |
| 4 = A | Essays earning a 4 effectively demonstrate understanding of the task in the prompt.  Title is unexpectedly delightful and fully grabs reader’s attention.  Opening intrigues the reader, pulling the reader fully into the paper.  Organization of the story is masterfully built, providing clear structure and an occasionally delightful surprise.  Pacing is intentional and fluid.  Dialogue is artfully used as a means to build characterization and advance the story.  Powerful vocabulary with no repetition; always fresh and interesting.  Excellent sentence flow and variety of sentence structures.  Skillful use of transitions to help create a unified, cohesive piece of writing.  When appropriate, the writer uses “showing” details rather than just telling information about the characters/scene.  The ending is thoughtful, satisfying, and perhaps even delightfully surprising.  A lively, interesting writer’s voice comes through to the audience. | Exceeds Expectations |
| 3 = B | Essays earning a 3 adequately demonstrate understanding of the task in the prompt.  Title is appropriate to the topic, but lacks great inspiration.  Opening interests the reader.  Organization of the story is clear and smoothly leads the reader through the story.  Pacing is good, but a few minor bumps slow down the reader at times.  Dialogue is good, but some of the characters sound alike; could do more to use dialogue as a story-telling tool.  Good vocabulary that clearly, but not always powerfully, tells the story.  Smooth sentence flow and occasionally effective sentence variety.  Correct use of transitions for unity and cohesiveness.  Writer attempts to use “showing” details rather than just telling information, even if the technique doesn’t always work.  The ending answers all questions, but doesn’t satisfy as deeply as the “A” level.  The writer’s voice comes through to the audience, but falls flat at times. | Meets Expectations |
| 2 = C | Essays earning a 2 demonstrate little success in understanding the task in the prompt.  Title is flat or predictable.  Opening is present, but flat or tired; the opening needs to do more to really pull in the reader.  Evidence of organization exists, but reader was confused and/or specific sections seemed rushed/underdeveloped.  Pacing is inconsistent and/or sometimes becomes bogged down.  Dialogue is present, but it doesn’t advance the story; it works mostly as filler.  Average, simple vocabulary or overly flowery language that blocks meaning at times.  Sentence flow is choppy at times; limited sentence variety.  Limited use of transitions; at times, an inappropriate transition is used or is missing altogether.  Needs to use more “showing” details; several missed opportunities to use this technique.  The ending is present, but delivers a typical and/or obvious resolution.  Writer’s voice is off key for the assignment, either too formal and rigid or too informal. | Approaching Expectations |
| 1 = D | Essays earning a 1 do not demonstrate success in understanding the task in the prompt. Title is just a restatement of the title of the assignment or just a label.  Opening is abrupt or confusing.  Organization is confusing or illogical; your reader needed more help in following your narrative line.  Pacing is slow and/or labored; your reader must make great effort to slog through the story.  Dialogue is mostly missing.  Flat, unsophisticated vocabulary and/or inappropriate diction.  Flow is mostly choppy and erratic; little or no sentence variety  Little or no use of transitions.  Writer does not use any “showing” details.  The ending is abrupt, not believable, or leaves too many unanswered questions.  No writer’s voice is present. The words are lifeless or robotic. | Does Not Meet Expectations |
| 0 = F | Essays earning a 0 merely repeat the prompt or are off topic.  Assignment is incomplete, incoherent, undeveloped, or does not meet the requirements of the assignment | Off Topic/ Missing Components |