



Teacher-Friendly Scoring Guide for Narrative Writing

Narrative writing captures a real or imagined experience. It usually contains three primary elements: characters, setting, plot. The writer grabs and holds the reader's attention by developing believable characters and putting them in interesting situations, establishing a clear sense of time and place, weaving in vivid details and plot twists, and creating a central conflict or problem that is resolved in a compelling way. To accomplish that, the writer must apply the key qualities of the mode with skill and confidence.

6 EXCEPTIONAL

- A. **Plot:** The writer uses sequenced events in words and pictures in a way that makes sense. There is a simple problem and solution.
- B. **Characters:** The writer creates fresh and original characters who change and learn.
- C. **Setting:** The writer uses time and place in words and pictures.

5 STRONG

4 REFINING

- A. **Plot:** The writer attempts sequenced events in words and pictures, but there may be confusion about sequence and/or the problem/solution.
- B. **Characters:** The writer creates predictable and ordinary characters who do not noticeably change and learn.
- C. **Setting:** The writer describes place and/or time, but without much imagination or clarity.

3 DEVELOPING

2 EMERGING

- A. **Plot:** The writer creates a story that is difficult to follow. There is no problem to be solved or solution.
- B. **Characters:** The writer has not created real or plausible characters.
- C. **Setting:** The writer does not include a setting.

1 RUDIMENTARY