**Narrative Writing Rubric**

Name: Score:

**4 = Excellent 3 = Good 2 = Needs Work 1 = Unacceptable**

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| **Score** | **Traits** |
| **4**  **3**  **2**  **1** | **CLEAR, WELL ORGANIZED, WELL DEVELOPED IDEAS**   * Narrative is **logically sequenced**, with clear **beginning, middle, and end**. * **Transition** words or phrases **connect paragraphs smoothly** (First, Later, Finally…) * **Lead sentence grabs the reader’s attention** (try starting with something unexpected, a quote, dialogue, a question…) |
| **4**  **3**  **2**  **1** | **SENTENCE VARIATION IN PARAGRAPHS**   * **Compound sentence** (ex: Ashley screamed loudly, but Serina ran away) * **2 independent clauses** (each clause can stand alone) separated by a semicolon (ex: Lisa called for help; no one came.) * **Appositive phrase** (ex: Jacob, **the best speller in the class**, won the contest) * **Introductory prepositional phrase** (ex: **From the bottom of the well**, a noise…) * **Introductory adverb clause** (ex: **When John finished his homework**, he…) (Until, Since, After, Before…) * **Variety of sentence length** |
| **4**  **3**  **2**  **1** | **WORD CHOICE**   * **Vivid, lively verbs** are used (weak: lea was bossy. **Strong:** Lea bossed her brother constantly.) * **Imaginative**, unusual **adjectives** are used. (~~beautiful~~, angelic, magnificent, awe-inspiring) * **Vague, overused, repetitive language is avoided** (ex: a lot, very, really, then, big, pretty, and, **like**…) |
| **4**  **3**  **2**  **1** | **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**   * **Metaphor** (Our house is a zoo) * **Simile** (Our house is **like** a circus) * **Personification** (The **summer breeze whispered** quietly to me.) |
| **4**  **3**  **2**  **1** | **EDITING FOR GRAMMAR, USAGE, MECHANICS**   * **No run-on sentences** (incorrect: Janie left school early, she had to go to the doctor) * **No sentence fragments** (incorrect: If Janie went to the doctor.) * **Subject/Verb agreement** (incorrect: One of the toys **are** missing. Correct: One of the boys **is** missing.) * Correct, consistent **verb tense usage** (**Don’t accidentally mix present and past tenses.** If you are telling your story as if it already happened, keep all of your verbs past tense.) * **Punctuation** is correct. * **Capitalization** is correct. * **Spelling** is correct. * Paragraphs are **indented** correctly. (You only need to hit the ‘Tab’ key once) |