**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…)
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| **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**
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| **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**…)
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| **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.)
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| **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)
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