

Grades 9-12 Narrative Writing Guide for Determining Instructional Decisions

		Exceeds Expectations	Meets Standards	Approaching Standards	Below Standards
Ideas and Organization	Title	The title is creative/original and captures the essence of the narrative or topic.	The title identifies the narrative or the topic.	The title is loosely related to the narrative or topic.	The title is unrelated to the narrative or topic.
	Opening/Closing	The author skillfully uses strategies for powerful openings that immediately grabs the reader's attention and for closings that wrap up/tie together the narrative.	The author uses strategies for openings such as introducing the narrative or catching the reader's attention and for closings that wrap up the narrative or remind the reader of the theme.	The author effectively uses a strong opening OR closing and attempts strategies for the other.	The author does no use opening and closing strategies.
	Intent/Theme	The narrative's intent/theme is apparent, compelling, and artful.	The narrative's intent/theme is clear.	The narrative's intent/theme is unclear.	The narrative lacks intent/theme.
	Character(s)	Characters are strongly drawn, clearly differentiated, and fully developed. Characters are revealed in multiple ways (through appearance, action, thought, words, reaction). Characters develop and change naturally within the context of the narrative.	Characters are clear and reasonably developed. Characters have identifiable traits. Change within a character is forced to match the ending. Characterizations are mostly consistent.	Characters are somewhat clear and developed. Change within any characters is minimal, is uninteresting and/or stereotypical.	Characters are unclear. They are little more than a name with a description. Characters are either unbelievable or incomplete.
	Setting	The setting is clearly drawn and has an impact on the narrative.	The setting is established and works well with the narrative's intent/theme.	The setting is mentioned and does a fair job of helping convey the narrative's intent/theme.	The setting is mentioned, but lends little relationship to the intent/theme of the narrative or conflicts with the intent/theme.
	Plot/Conflict	The plot is fresh and original. It moves at an effective pace. The conflict that is in the narrative is clear and the importance of it to the characters is convincing. Actions produce new situations that produce new actions. Characters struggle with their problems in an interesting and meaningful way to support the narrative's intent/theme.	The plot is neatly structured. The conflict is clear and believable, but the importance of the conflict to the characters is unclear. Actions produce new situations that produce new actions. Characters struggle with their problems. The solution works within the narrative's context.	The plot is weak and the conflict is forced. The importance of the conflict to the characters is unclear. The story is static. The solution is contrived.	The plot is empty. The conflict is unclear or absent. Actions seems unrelated to the conflict or the intent/theme central to the narrative. The solution is illogical or missing
	Development	The narrative is fully developed. All the literary elements of the narrative work together in an artful way to help shape the narrative's meaning for the reader.	The narrative is fairly well-developed. Some ideas or events may be out of place, but the reader can understand the narrative.	The narrative is a little hard to follow, but the reader can discern what is happening with minimal effort. Transitions are not used well.	The narrative seems random or superficial or is difficult for the reader to understand.
Figurative Language	Figurative language enhances the narrative's meaning.	Figurative language supports the narrative's meaning.	Figurative language is weak and unrelated to the narrative's meaning.	Figurative language is absent or incorrect.	
Voice & Word Choice Tone	The author exhibits and effective and insightful use of language and point of view. The language and tone fit the narrative perfectly.	The author maintains appropriate point of view, word choice, word usage, and tone.	The author makes minor errors in point of view, word choice, word usage, and/or tone that do not hinder the reader's understanding of the narrative. Some languages does not fit the narrative or is very elementary.	The author makes major or excessive errors in point of view, word choice, word usage, and/or tone that hinder the reader's understanding of the narrative. It is evident that little or no thought has been given to language.	
Presentation/ Style	The style and choice of genre are appropriate for the work and heightens its effectiveness.	The style and choice of genre do not interfere with understanding the narrative.	The style and/or choice of genre minimally interfere with the understanding of the narrative.	The style and/or choice of genre impedes the understanding of the narrative.	
Conventions of English	Few/no errors are made.	Noticeable mistakes are present but do not interfere with the understanding of the narrative.	Numerous mistakes are present but do not interfere with the understanding of the narrative.	Mistakes are present that interfere with the understanding of the narrative.	
Audience & Purpose	The narrative effectively addresses the intended audience and purpose.	The narrative addresses the intended audience and purpose.	The narrative has some interesting features, but interest is not uniformly maintained and/or purpose is not always clear.	The narrative fails to consider audience and purpose.	