

Narrative Essay Rubric

The Exceptional Essay

- Creatively engages reader by setting out a well-developed conflict, situation, or observation and its significance.
- Establishes one or multiple points of view and expertly introduces a narrator and/or complex characters
- Demonstrates sophisticated narrative techniques (engaging dialogue, artistic pacing, vivid description, complex reflection, multiple plot lines) to develop experiences, events, and/or characters
- Creates a seamless progression of events/experiences using multiple techniques (chronology, flashback, foreshadowing, suspense, resolution, etc.) to sequence events so that they build on one another to craft a clear tone and a coherent whole
- Eloquent use of precise words, details, sensory language, and mood to convey a realistic picture of experiences, events, setting and/or characters
- Skillfully provides a conclusion that artfully follows from and thoughtfully reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative
- Uses purposeful and varied sentence structure
- Contains minimal to no errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization)

The Skilled Essay

- Engages and orients the reader by setting out a conflict, situation, or observation and its significance
- Establishes one or multiple points of view and introduces a narrator and/or well-developed characters
- Demonstrates deliberate use of narrative techniques (such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, multiple plot lines) to develop experiences, events, and/or characters
- Creates a smooth progression of events/experiences using multiple techniques (chronology, flashback, foreshadowing, suspense, resolution, etc.) to sequence events so that they build on one another to create tone and a coherent whole
- Uses precise words, details, sensory language, and mood to convey a realistic picture of experiences, events, setting and/or characters
- Builds to a conclusion that logically follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative
- Uses correct and varied sentence structure
- Contains few, minor errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization)

The Proficient (Basic) Essay

- Orients the reader by setting out a conflict, situation, or observation and its significance
- Establishes one point of view and introduces a narrator and/or developed characters
- Uses narrative techniques (such as dialogue, description, reflection) to show experiences, events, and/or characters
- Creates a logical progression of events/experiences using some techniques (chronology, flashback, foreshadowing, suspense, etc.) to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a particular tone and a coherent whole
- Uses phrases and words, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of experiences, events, setting and/or characters
- Provides a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative
- Uses mostly correct and some varied sentence structure
- Contains some errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization) which may cause confusion

The Developing (Below Basic) Essay

- Provides a setting with a vague conflict, situation, or observation with an unclear point of view
- Introduces a narrator and/or undeveloped characters
- Uses some narrative techniques (such as dialogue or description) and merely retells experiences and/or events
- Creates a sequence or progression of events
- Lacks a clear tone and/or outcome
- Uses phrases, words, and telling details to convey experiences, events, setting and/or characters
- Provides a conclusion that follows from what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative
- Uses limited and/or repetitive sentence structure
- Contains numerous errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization) which cause some confusion

The Inadequate (Far Below Basic) Essay

- Provides a setting that is unclear with a vague conflict, situation, or observation
- Has an unclear point of view and underdeveloped narrator and/or characters
- Lacks narrative techniques and merely retells experiences and/or events
- Lacks a sequence or progression of events or presents an illogical sequence of events
- Lacks a clear tone and/or outcome
- Merely tells experiences, events, setting and/or characters
- May provide a conclusion to the events of the narrative
- Lacks sentence mastery (e.g. fragments, run-ons)
- Contains serious and pervasive errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization)

Comments: