Narrative Writing Rubric Grades 1-2



	1	2	3	4
Topic Introduction/ Focus of Writing	 Topic NOT introduced Does not demonstrate understanding of topic No clear topic is evident Narrative may be confusing or ambiguous 	 Topic is inferred, but not directly stated; unclear, inconsistent, or too general Demonstrates some understanding about topic Inconsistent in sticking to topic May or may not include minimal details to describe actions, thoughts, and/or feelings 	 With support, writes a topic sentence to introduce topic Demonstrates acceptable understanding of topic Sticks to topic with minimal deviation Includes details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings 	 Writes a clear topic sentence introduction and conclusion Demonstrates strong understanding of topic Sticks to topic with no deviations Includes well-developed description of actions, thoughts, and feelings
Organization	 No paragraph structure is evident Information is randomly scattered and non-sequential introduction and/or conclusion may be missing 	 No paragraph structure, but informational sentences make sense Most information presented in sequential order introduction or conclusion, if present, may be weak 	 Organizes ideas and information into incomplete paragraph Information is presented in sequential order adequate opening and closure for audience and purpose 	 Ideas and information organized in clear paragraph structure Uses transitional/ linking words to connect ideas or paragraphs in sequential order effective opening and closure for audience and purpose
Details	 Provides minimal/ no elaboration of details Evidence from the oral narrative is minimal or irrelevant 	 Provides uneven, cursory elaboration of the narrative that may include some details Some evidence from oral narrative may be weakly integrated, imprecise, or repetitive 	 Provides adequate elaboration of the narrative that includes the use of details and possibly dialogue. Adequate evidence from oral narrative is integrated 	 Provides thorough elaboration of the narrative that includes the effective use of details and dialogue Comprehensive evidence from oral narrative is integrated
Vocabulary & Language Complexity	 Uses only pictures or adds just a few simple words to pictures. Writing makes no sense 	Uses simple, general vocabulary with limited descriptive language Uses mostly incomplete sentences or phrases Most sentences start in the same way	Uses conversational vocabulary with some descriptive language Uses primarily simple sentences mixed with a few phrases/fragments Some sentences start in the same way	 Uses specific words and abundant age-appropriate descriptive language Uses more complex & expanded sentences than simple sentences Beginning of sentences in text vary and makes the writing sound interesting

Conventions/ Grammar & Mechanics • Does not use word spacing, punctuation, or capitalization • Writing may appear as string of letters • Letters not correctly formed or legible	Demonstrates correct word spacing most of the time Inventive spelling used consistentlymany words not recognizable to reader Uses capitalization and punctuation inconsistently or incorrectly Writing is mostly legible	Uses correct word spacing with rare exceptions About half of the sight words spelled correctly, inventive spelling/close approximations for other words Capitalization & punctuation consistent at beginning and end of sentences with some fragments present. Writing legible & correct	Uses correct word spacing throughout text High frequency words spelled correctly and other words are close to standard spelling Correct capitalization and punctuation used consistently Letter formation is neat and correct
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