

Name: _____

Date: _____

Narrative Writing Checklist

	Grade 7	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!	Grade 8	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
	Structure				Structure			
Overall	I created a narrative that has realistic characters, tension, and change; and that not only conveys, but also develops an idea, lesson, or theme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I not only created a narrative with well-developed characters who change, I used the story to comment on a social issue, teach a lesson, and/or develop a point of view.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lead	I wrote a beginning that not only sets the story in motion, it also grounds it in a place or situation. It included details that will later be important to the story. These details might point to the central issue or conflict, show how story elements connect, or hint at key character traits.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In establishing the situation and place, I hinted at a bigger context for the story (revealing issues that have been brewing, showing how the setting affects the character, contextualizing a time in history, and/or developing one out of many points of view).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transitions	I used transitional phrases and clauses to connect what happened to why it happened (<i>If he hadn't ... he might not have, because of, although, little did she know that</i>).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I used transitional phrases and clauses, grammatical structures (for example, paragraphing, descriptive phrases, and clauses) and text structures (such as chapter divisions and extended italics) to alert my reader to changes in the setting, the mood, the point of view, or the time in the story.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ending	I gave the reader a sense of closure by showing clearly how the character or place has changed or the problem has been resolved. If there wasn't resolution, I gave details to leave the reader thinking about a central idea or theme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I gave the reader a sense of closure by revealing character change(s) that followed from events in the story, or perhaps a resolution. If there wasn't resolution, I wrote to convey how the events of the story affected the characters, and to circle back to a central idea, issue, or theme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organization	I used a traditional—or slightly modified—story structure (rising action, conflict, falling action) to best bring out the meaning of my story and reach my audience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I modified a traditional story structure, dealing with time in purposeful ways, to best suit my genre, bring out the meaning of my story, and reach my audience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Narrative Writing Checklist (continued)

	Grade 7	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!	Grade 8	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
	Development				Development			
Elaboration	I developed the action, dialogue, details, and inner thinking to convey an issue, idea, or lesson. I showed what is specific about the central character. I developed the setting and the character's relationship to the setting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I developed complicated story elements; I may have contrasted the character's thinking with his or her actions or dialogue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					I developed the central character's relationship to other characters. I showed character flaws as well as strengths to add complexity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					My details conveyed meaning and related to or developed a lesson or theme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Craft	I developed contradictions and change in characters and situations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I conveyed the pressures characters feel and the dreams they hold. I related those to their actions. I developed complicated characters who change and/or who change others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I used specific details and figurative language to help the reader understand the place and the mood (such as making an object or place symbolic, using the weather, using repetition).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I created a mood as well as a physical setting, and showed how the place changed, or its relationships to the characters changed. I used symbolism to connect with a theme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I varied my tone to match the variety of emotions experienced by the characters across the story.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I varied my tone to bring out different perspectives within the story, or to show a gap between the narrator's point of view and that of other characters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Narrative Writing Checklist (continued)

	Grade 7	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!	Grade 8	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
	Conventions				Conventions			
Spelling	I used the internet and other sources at hand to check spelling of literary and high-frequency words.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I used the internet and other sources to check the spelling of literary, historical, and geographical words.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Punctuation and Sentence Structure	I varied my sentence structure, sometimes using simple and sometimes using complex sentence structure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I used different sentence structures to achieve different purposes throughout my piece.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I punctuated dialogue sections accurately.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I used verb tenses that shift when needed (such as when moving from a flashback back into the present tense of the story), deciding between active and passive voice where appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>