

Narrative Rubric

	D Paper	C Paper	B Paper	A Paper
Sensory details & Word Choice	Uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning. The piece does not include any sensory details	Uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch, or flair. The piece contains some sensory details but needs more.	Uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone. The piece contains some sensory details but could use more. Or details could be more unique or effective.	Uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced. The piece contains many effective, unique, and vivid sensory details. The piece demonstrates mastery of show vs. tell. Meaning is effectively conveyed through capturing moments, details, and experience with unique sensory language rather than outright explaining.
Creative title	No title	Title is present, but does not appear to be related to the piece.	Title is related to the piece but could be more original or interesting.	Title is creative and original, sparks interest, and is related to the piece.
Techniques: Poetic Devices, Dialogue, Inner Thoughts, En medias res introduction	Demonstrates a limited understanding of writing techniques like poetic devices, dialogue, inner thoughts, and/or medias res.	Demonstrates some understanding of writing techniques like poetic devices, dialogue, inner thoughts, and/or medias res.	Demonstrates an understanding of writing techniques like poetic devices, dialogue, inner thoughts, and/or medias res. However, the technique could be more unique or used more effectively.	Demonstrates an excellent understanding of topics, successfully incorporates original dialogue or inner thought, and effectively includes unique poetic devices. The piece effectively grabs the reader by beginning in medias res.
Grammar and mechanics	Contains many errors in conventions, grammar, and usage. The piece demonstrates poor understanding of mechanics and is therefore hard to understand at times.	Contains several errors in conventions, grammar, and usage. The piece develops some understanding of mechanics.	Contains a few errors in conventions, grammar, and usage. The piece demonstrates understanding of mechanics. It is unclear if deviation from conventional usage is deliberate.	Is essentially error-free in conventions, grammar, and usage. The piece demonstrates mastery of mechanics. Unconventional usage of mechanics is deliberate and an effective development of voice/style.