

Name: _____ Date: _____

Narrative Writing Checklist

| | Grade 7 | NOT YET | STARTING TO | YES! |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 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"/> |
| 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"/> |
| 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"/> |
| 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"/> |
| 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"/> |
| | 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"/> |
| Craft | I developed contradictions and change in characters and situations. | <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 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"/> |
| | 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"/> |
| 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 punctuated dialogue sections accurately. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |