

8th Grade Rubric for Narrative Writing

Attribute	6	5	4	3	2	1	Points Earned	Comments
Ideas	The narrative tells about an unforgettable experience. The details make the story truly memorable.	The writer tells about an interesting experience. Details help create the interest.	The writer tells about an interesting experience. More details are needed.	The writer needs to focus on one experience. Some details do not relate to the story.	The writer needs to focus on one experience. Details are needed.	The writer needs to tell about an experience and use details.		
Organization	The organization makes the narrative enjoyable and easy to read.	The narrative is well organized, with a clear beginning, middle, and ending. Transitions are used well.	The narrative is well organized. Most of the transitions are helpful.	The order of events needs to be corrected. More transitions need to be used. One part of the narrative is weak.	The beginning, middle, and ending all run together. The order is unclear.	The narrative needs to be organized.		
Voice	The writer's voice creates an unforgettable experience for the reader.	The writer's voice sounds natural and creates interest in the story. Dialogue is used.	The writer's voice creates interest in the story. More dialogue is needed.	A voice can usually be heard. Dialogue is needed.	The voice is weak. Dialogue is needed.	The writer has not gotten involved in the story. Dialogue is needed.		
Word Choice	The writer's exceptional word choice captures the experience.	Strong nouns and verbs and well-chosen modifiers create vivid, clear pictures.	Modifiers are used. Strong nouns and active verbs would improve sensory images.	Strong nouns, verbs, and modifiers are needed to create sensory images.	General and overused words do not create sensory images.	The writer has not yet considered word choice.		
Sentence Fluency	The sentences are skillfully written and original. They keep the readers interest.	The sentences show variety and are easy to read and understand.	The sentences are varied, but some should flow more smoothly.	A better variety of sentences is needed. Sentences do not read smoothly.	Incomplete and/or short sentences make the writing choppy.	Few sentences are written well. Help is needed.		
Conventions	The narrative is error free.	The narrative has a few minor errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.	The narrative has several errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.	Some errors confuse the reader.	Many errors make the narrative confusing and hard to read.	Help is needed to make corrections.		