Rubric: Writing Narratives

KEY TRAITS	4	3	2	1
IDEAS AND EVIDENCE	• The introduction establishes a strong narrative context: it clearly establishes an engaging problem, situation, and setting. • Characters are compelling, with fully developed traits and motivations. • The narrative provides helpful background to explain events. • Descriptive details, realistic dialogue, and reflection bring the narrative to life for the reader.	• The introduction establishes some context but could do more to engage the reader with the problem, situation, or setting. • Most characters are compelling, but one or two could be more fully developed. • Helpful background is needed to explain one or two events. • Descriptive details and dialogue generally create a strong mental picture for the reader.	• The introduction establishes a weak context; it only hints at a situation, problem or setting. • Many characters are in need of more development. • More helpful background is needed throughout the narrative. • A few descriptive details create lively scenes, but most details are ordinary; dialogue is lacking.	• The introduction does not establish a narrative context for the reader. • Characters are undeveloped; they have no clear descriptions or motivations. • Necessary background is missing. • Details and dialogue are unrelated or missing.
ORGANIZATION	• Each of the plot stages (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) is fully developed. • The organization is effective; ideas are arranged logically. • The pace is effective. • Transitions successfully connect ideas and show the sequence of events.	• Most of the plot stages (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) are developed, but one or two could be improved. • The organization of ideas generally is logical; the sequence of events is confusing in a few places. • At times, the pace is too slow or too fast. • A few more transitions are needed to clarify the sequence of events.	• Several of the plot stages (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) are weak. • The organization of ideas often doesn't follow a pattern, and the sequence of events is confusing in several places. • The pace overall is either too slow or too fast. • More transitions are needed throughout to clarify the sequence of events.	• The plot does not have clear stages of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, or resolution. • The narrative is not organized; information and details are presented randomly. • The pace is ineffective throughout. • Transitions are not used, making the narrative difficult to understand.
LANGUAGE	• One point of view is used creatively and consistently throughout the narrative. • Sensory language, imagery, and figurative language are used creatively to describe people, places, and events in vivid ways. • Sentence beginnings, lengths, and structures vary and have a rhythmic flow. • Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are correct. • Grammar and usage are correct.	• The narrative point of view shifts in one or two places. • More sensory language, imagery, or figurative language are needed to describe some people, places, and events. • Sentence beginnings, lengths, and structures vary somewhat. • Several spelling, capitalization, and punctuation mistakes occur. • Some grammatical and usage errors are repeated in the narrative.	• The narrative point of view shifts in many places. • The narrative lacks sensory language, figurative language, and imagery in many key parts. • Sentence structures barely vary, and some fragments or run-on sentences are present. • Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are often incorrect but do not interfere with reading the narrative. • Grammar and usage are incorrect in many places.	• The narrative lacks a consistent point of view. • Sensory language, figurative language, and imagery are not used. • Repetitive sentence structure, fragments, and run-on sentences make the writing hard to follow. • Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are incorrect throughout. • Many grammatical and usage errors change the meaning of the writer's ideas.