Narrative Essay Rubric

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|  | **10/9** | **8.5/8/7.5** | **7/6.5** | **6/5** |
| Ideas/Purpose | -A **unique** story that is shared using details that make the narrative truly memorable  -**Purpose** is inferred or stated naturally | -An interesting experience is shared with details that help create the interest  -Purpose is inferred or stated clearly | -The interesting experience needs more details  -Purpose is stated explicitly but may not fit the story. OR may be confusing | -The narrative need to focus on one experience. Some details do not fit the narrative or it is missing details  -Purpose is unclear |
| Pacing and Plot | Pacing is ideal.  Details enhance the plot  Focus is on the purpose. | Pacing is good.  Enough details to enhance the plot but could use a bit more (or less) | Pacing is off. May need more details (or less) to fill in the “plot holes” | Pacing is off.  Too many plot holes |
| Organization | The organization makes the narrative **easy to read and enjoyable** | Organized well with a clear beginning, middle and end | The order of events need to be corrected  Transitions may be weak or missing | Organization is confusing. Transitions weak or missing |
| Voice | The voice creates an **unforgettable experience** | The personal voice creates interest. Possibly more dialogue is needed | The voice can usually be heard but may be a bit flat | Voice is simple |
| Word choice | Exceptional word choice  The story is **shown** in **vivid details and imagery**  **Shown NOT told** | Specific nouns, strong verbs and well-chosen modifiers create vivid pictures and express clear feelings. **Some *showing* as opposed to *telling*** | Some vivid language is used but may be overused or simple.  **Story is *told*, not *shown*** | Little or no attempt at vivid language is used.  Story is *told*, not *shown* |
| Sentence Fluency | The sentences are **skillfully written, varied, original and interesting**  **Effort to combine sentences and use short ones is obvious.** | The sentences show variety and are easy to read and understand  **Some effort to combine sentences correctly** | More variety in sentences are needed. Sentences may be awkward.  **Combining sentences needs to be improved** | Too many awkward sentences that cause the reader to pause  **Combining sentences needs to be improved** |
| Conventions | Grammar and punctuation are correct (**esp. dialogue, and semi-colons and colons**)  -**Correct tense** | The narrative has a few errors in punctuation, spelling or grammar  -Correct tense | The narrative has obvious errors in punctuation, spelling and grammar.  -not in correct tense | Too many errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar  -not in correct tense |
| Rhetorical Devices and Writing Techniques | Four clearly marked, correct examples  **Examples are sophisticated and interesting** | Four clearly marked, correct examples  **Examples are good but may be basic** | 3-4 clearly marked, correct examples  **Examples are simple and clichés** | Some examples of writing techniques  **Examples are cliché** |