

Grade 7 Personal Narrative Rubric

ORGANIZATION/PROGRESSION		SCORE POINTS: The story represents a/an _____ writing performance.			
		1: Very limited	2: Basic	3: Satisfactory	4: Accomplished
Form and structure	The form or structure of the narrative is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies or literary devices that are only marginally suited to the narrative task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. Because the narrative is presented in a random or illogical way, the writer is not able to convey a sense of the experience.	The form or structure of the narrative is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies or literary devices that are only somewhat suited to the narrative task. The writer is able to convey some sense of the experience but may not be able to communicate its importance or meaning.	The form or structure of the narrative is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies or literary devices that are adequately suited to the narrative task. The writer is able to clearly convey the experience and adequately communicate its importance or meaning.	The form or structure of the narrative is appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies or literary devices that are particularly well suited to the narrative task. The writer is able to skillfully convey the experience and communicate its importance or meaning.	
Unity and coherence	Many of the details do not contribute to the narrative. The writer's lack of focus on a specific personal experience weakens the unity and coherence of the narrative.	Some details do not contribute to the narrative. The writer may focus on a specific personal experience but may not sustain that focus, limiting the unity and coherence of the narrative.	Most details contribute to the effectiveness of the narrative. The writer focuses on a specific personal experience and generally sustains that focus. The narrative is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.	All details contribute to the effectiveness of the narrative. The writer focuses on a specific personal experience and sustains that focus, strengthening the unity and coherence of the narrative.	
Progression of ideas and transitions	The writer's narrative presentation is weak . Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the story line. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections makes one or more parts of the narrative unclear or difficult to follow.	The writer's narrative presentation is inconsistent . Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the story line. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the logical movement of the narrative or establish a link between the experience and its meaning.	The writer's narrative presentation is adequately controlled . For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the logical movement of the narrative and establish a link between the experience and its meaning.	The writer's narrative presentation is well controlled . Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the logical movement of the narrative and reinforce the link between the experience and its meaning.	
DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS					
Development of the narrative	The development of the narrative is weak because the details are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient . They do not contribute to the writer's portrayal of the experience.	The development of the narrative is minimal and remains at a surface level because there are few details, they are not always appropriate, or they are too general. For the most part, the details contribute only marginally to the writer's portrayal of the experience and provide the reader with little or no understanding of why this experience was meaningful.	Specific details add some substance to the narrative . For the most part, these details contribute to the writer's portrayal of the experience and provide the reader with some understanding of why this experience was meaningful.	Specific, well-chosen details add substance to the narrative. These details contribute significantly to the writer's portrayal of the experience and provide the reader with a clear understanding of why this experience was meaningful.	

Spring 2012

Grade 7 Personal Narrative Rubric (cont.)

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Depth and understanding of task	The narrative is insubstantial because the writer's response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the narrative as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer fails to establish a realistic situation, present motivations for behavior or actions, or show any awareness of changes or insights that developed as a result of the experience.	The narrative reflects little or no thoughtfulness . In some cases, the writer's response to the prompt is formulaic and demonstrates only a limited understanding of the writing task. In other cases, the writer establishes some elements of a realistic situation but may provide few motivations for behavior or actions. In addition, the writer may not address changes or insights that developed as a result of the experience.	The narrative reflects some thoughtfulness . The writer demonstrates a good understanding of the writing task by establishing a realistic situation, providing reasonable motivations for behavior or actions, and addressing (at least to some degree) changes or insights that developed as a result of the experience.	The narrative is thoughtful and engaging . The writer demonstrates a thorough understanding of the writing task by establishing a realistic situation, providing plausible motivations for behavior or actions, and revealing changes or insights that developed as a result of the experience.	
	USE OF LANGUAGE/CONVENTIONS				
Word choice	The writer's word choice may be vague or limited . It reflects little or no awareness of the narrative purpose. The word choice impedes the writer's ability to relate the experience clearly or to convey a sense of its importance or meaning.	The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise . It reflects a basic awareness of the narrative purpose. The word choice limits the writer's ability to relate the experience clearly or to convey a sense of its importance or meaning.	The writer's word choice is, for the most part, specific and concrete . It reflects an awareness of the narrative purpose. Generally effective word choice allows the writer to relate the experience clearly and to convey some sense of its importance or meaning.	The writer's word choice is vivid and expressive . It reflects a keen awareness of the narrative purpose. Effective word choice enables the writer to recreate the experience in a way that conveys its importance or meaning .	
Sentences	Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled , weakening the effectiveness of the narrative.	Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled , limiting the effectiveness of the narrative.	Sentences are varied and adequately controlled , for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the narrative.	Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled , enhancing the effectiveness of the narrative.	
Command of conventions; occurrence of errors	The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.	The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.	The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the narrative.	The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident , they do not detract from the fluency or clarity of the writing. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the narrative.	

Spring 2012

Peer-Conferencing Tool for Personal Narratives

Name of Writer:

Date:

Name of Reviewer:

Date:

Directions to the Reviewer

Read the draft. Make suggestions for improvement. Be specific. Consider the questions listed below. Jot down notes for your conference with the writer. Be prepared to share your responses.

What is the writer's purpose? Is the writer able to communicate the significance or importance of the experience?

Is the topic too large to cover in this essay? If so, how can the writer narrow the topic and clearly define and sustain the central idea?

Does the introduction make me want to read the rest of the essay? If not, why?

Are the ideas presented logically and easy to follow? Are there places the author can strengthen sentences to connect ideas? Add transitions?

Are the characters interesting? Does the writer use an appropriate amount of dialogue? Where does the author need to improve his or her character descriptions?

Does the writer describe the setting using sensory details? How can the author strengthen the setting description?

Does the writer use interesting, specific details that add substance and contribute to the portrayal of the experience? Does the author show, rather than tell about, this experience? If so, where?

Are there parts that could be left out? If so, where?

Are there places where the writer could have used more purposeful and precise language? If so, what words do you suggest?

Are there any parts you found confusing? If so, what parts?

Does the conclusion bring closure to the essay? Does the writer leave you with a lasting impression of the personal experience and/or insight?

Does the essay include a variety of sentence types?

What do you like best about the personal narrative? Why?

What could the writer do to most improve this essay?

Are there spelling and grammatical errors?