

Writer name: _____

Date: _____

Narrative Essay Rubric

Introduction **Section Score: ____ / 8**

1. Grabs attention with a hook
2. Clearly defines/establishes the focus and context for the essay
3. Provides a clear topic/main idea for the essay and forecasts a lesson learned or point which will be demonstrated through the narrative story (creates a sense of foreshadowing)
4. Provides an interesting and appropriate opening for the subject matter and intended audience
5. Establishes overall tone and mood for the narrative

Organization/Structure **Section Score: ____ / 15**

1. Contains a distinct introductory paragraph, required number of body paragraphs, and a distinct concluding paragraph
2. Body paragraphs break at logical places
3. Transitions are used appropriately to connect sentences and paragraphs and establish overall flow
4. All paragraphs are unified around the primary idea of the narrative (coherence)
5. Narrative story progresses logically and sequentially

Conclusion **Section Score: ____ / 7**

1. Appropriately and logically wraps up the discussion
2. Restates the main idea (in different words)
3. Draws out a lesson learned or main point from the narrative
4. Provides a sense of closure and impact

Logic/Reasoning **Section Score: ____ / 15**

1. Narrative reflects thoughtful analysis and depth of reasoning
2. Essay develops the narrative well, providing adequate reasoning and supporting details
3. Sensory details are used to draw the reader into the narrative story (touch, smell, sight, taste, sound)
4. Writer utilizes each of the three rhetorical strategies (*ethos*, *pathos*, *logos*) at least once during the essay

Style/Voice **Section Score: ____ / 15**

1. The style and overall voice of the essay is appropriate for both the assignment and the assumed audience (in level of formality, diction used, etc.)
2. Writer uses varied sentence structure and the essay does not feel either choppy (too many short sentences) or overly wordy (too many long, rambling sentences)
3. Writer uses an appropriate tense and POV, and does not switch tense or POV in the course of the essay
4. Writer uses concise, clear language and avoids wordiness or repetition
5. The voice of the essay feels consistent throughout
6. Language is not overly casual, dismissive, or offensive to audience

Grammar/Mechanics Section Score: ___ / 15

For each category where the writer has ZERO errors, write the appropriate # of points in the blank (possible points for each category are listed in parentheses). If they have ANY errors of that type, write 0 in the blank. Total all point values from the blanks; Goal for the writer would be to achieve 15 full points from this section.

- ___ subject/verb disagreement (1)
- ___ pronoun disagreement (1)
- ___ unclear pronoun reference (1)
- ___ tense error or tense shifts (2)
- ___ spelling error/typo (1)
- ___ capitalization error (1)
- ___ word used incorrectly or inappropriately (3)
- ___ idiom, cliché, or colloquialism used (1)
- ___ punctuation errors (1)
- ___ run-on sentences (2)
- ___ sentence fragments (1)

Use of Sources/Research Section Score: ___ / 15

1. Writer utilizes supporting examples and details to effectively support the narrative
2. Essay includes information from the required number of sources (if any were required)
3. Any quotations, summaries, and paraphrases from outside sources are appropriately implemented (no dropped quotes) and well-integrated into the text in a logical and seamless fashion
4. Any sources used are properly cited and documented in the text, and an appropriate reference page (Works Cited, Bibliography, etc.) is included and lists all sources
5. Writer does not over-rely on outside sources (excessive quotations, etc.) – essay is primarily the writer’s original thought, with sources used appropriate to support and strengthen the narrative

Requirements/Formatting Section Score: ___ / 10

1. Format, references, and citations follow MLA style or some other professional style, as agreed upon with the instructor.
2. Typical formatting requirements for an academic paper (adjust as needed for individual instructor preferences):
 - 1 inch margins
 - 12 pt Times Roman font
 - Title, name heading on first page
 - Page numbers properly formatted (top-right header with last name and page #)
 - Works Cited or Bibliography page properly formatted (alphabetical; hanging indents; citations properly formatted)
 - In-text citations properly formatted (see MLA handbook for details)

Overall Score: ____/100