



Grades 9 – 12 Writing: Narrative Account Scoring Guide

	5 Exceeds the Standard	4 Meets the Standard	3 Basic Writing	2 Limited Writing	1 Minimal Writing
Ideas	Goes beyond the expectations of the prompt. In addition, such a paper may show creativity or lucidity or present insightful ideas.	Paper presents thoughtful ideas and addresses the prompt directly.	Responds to the prompt, though perhaps in a superficial way.	Ideas may simply be a restatement of the prompt with some elaboration. May lose sight of the topic.	Paper may restate the prompt, respond only partially, or the response may be irrelevant.
Organization and Coherence	Organization may be engaging and original. Reader moves effortlessly through the paper.	Clearly establishes context and organizes ideas, showing strong control and purpose appropriate to topic and audience. Paper has strong overall coherence with one idea logically following another.	Ideas are organized clearly. There is a beginning, middle, and end.	Reader can follow the ideas although there may be omissions and digressions: gaps in coherence.	There is little or no evidence of purposeful organization. Paper may be very brief or, if longer, lack coherence.
Elaboration and Narrative Strategies	Use of sensory and concrete detail shows flair. May use striking imagery, metaphor. Writer selectively uses a wide range of strategies (dialogue, interior monologue, pacing, naming, physical description, suspense)	Uses concrete language, relevant and specific details, and a variety of narrative strategies.	Some details are used to elaborate and develop ideas. Narrow range of narrative strategies.	Elaboration may be very general. Paper may simply list events.	Little or no evidence that the writer can elaborate an idea.
Significance	Shows insight in thoughtful reflection on experience(s). Significance may be implied or explicitly stated. If implied, the reader can confidently infer the significance.	Reflects on the significance of the experience(s). Significance is clear to the reader.	Significance may be commented on in a very obvious way or may rely heavily on the prompt. Reader can, however, understand the importance of the experience(s).	Little sense of the significance of the experience is given. Reader may not fully understand the importance of the experience(s).	No sense of the significance of the experience(s) is given.
Style and Voice	Uses sophisticated and varied sentence structure purposefully. Vocabulary is well-chosen. An engaging voice conveys the writer's enthusiasm for the subject.	Uses effective and varied sentence structure and vocabulary. A clear, consistent and authentic voice is maintained	Sentence structure and vocabulary are correct though may be pedestrian. The voice is that of an earnest writer.	Uses simple sentence structure correctly. Vocabulary is limited. Voice may be flat and mechanical, giving little evidence of the writer's involvement in the topic.	Does not always have control of basic sentence structure. Vocabulary is limited and may be inappropriate or inadequate. Little sense of voice.