**Narrative Writing Contest**

**Grades 9-12 Rubric**

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| CATEGORY | **Innovating** | **Applying** | **Developing** | **Beginning or**  **Not Using** |
| **Focus and Idea Progression** | The author engages and orients the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation establishing one or more points of view and maintaining a focused and smooth progression of experiences or events. | The author displays good use of point of view and context to introduce the reader to the topic. The narrative may wander off at one point, but the author brings it back in line. The reader can still learn and enjoy something about the topic. | The author begins with a focused plot but does not sustain the plot over halfway throughout the story. | The author begins with an attempt at establishing the narrative line but does not sustain it halfway into the narrative. |
| **Organization** | The author displays a command of use of a variety of techniques to sequence events so they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome. | The story is satisfactorily organized with some evidence of advanced organizational techniques (transitions, tone, etc). | The narrative contains awkward points, and some lack of fluidity. Sequencing techniques are ample but lack for the expected level of use. | Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged and can be overly predictable and lackluster. |
| **Creativity/**  **Use of Literary**  **Devices and Detail Development** | The author creates a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting and/or characters. He/she displays mastery of use of engaging and precise narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines to creatively develop experiences, events, and/or characters. | The narrative contains some evidence of creative and engaging details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. A sense of mystery, suspense, and/or growth can be enjoyed by the reader. | The narrative contains a few attempts at the use of creative details and/or descriptions. Some details may distract from the narrative. | There is little evidence of creativity in the narrative. |
| **Reaction/**  **Closure** | The author portrays a conclusion that effectively follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative. There is compelling evidence the author used appropriate voice in the piece. | The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and contains evidence of purposeful organized closure techniques.  There is evidence the author used appropriate voice in the piece. | The solution to the character's problem may be difficult to understand. The author provides an ample sense of closure.  The author attempted to use his/her voice in the piece. | No solution is attempted or it is impossible to understand. There is little or no ample sense of closure.  There is little or no evidence of the author’s use of voice in the piece. |
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