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| CATEGORY | **Innovating** | **Applying** | **Developing** | **Beginning or**  **Not Using** |
| **Focus and**  **Idea Progression** | The author engages and orients the reader by establishing a context and point of view introducing a narrator and/or characters, keeping events focused and unfolding naturally and logically. | The author displays satisfactory use of point of view and context to introduce the reader to the topic. The narrative may wander off at one point. However, the reader can still learn and enjoy something about the topic. | Some of the narrative is related to the topic, but a reader does not learn much about the topic. | Little or no attempt has been made to relate the story to the assigned topic. |
| **Organization** | There is a clear sequence of events. The author uses an excellent variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to convey signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another. The author shows the relationships among experiences and events. | The narrative is satisfactorily organized. One idea or scene may seem out of place. Clear transitions are used but may be too basal or predictable and not at the expected writing for this level. | The narrative’s sequence is choppy or jumpy making it difficult to follow. The transitions are sometimes unclear and/or too basal. | Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged. |
| **Creativity/**  **Use of Literary Devices and Detail Development** | The author uses engaging and precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and the reader. | The story contains some effective, creative and engaging details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader’s enjoyment. Attempts are made to portray character responses in dialogue and in use of descriptive words. | The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions. However, some details are included and/or others distract from the narrative. | There is little evidence of creativity in the story.  The narrative contains few, if any, sensory details or descriptive language. |
| **Reaction/**  **Closure** | The author portrays a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events and satisfactorily reflects upon the narrated experiences or events.  There is compelling evidence the author used appropriate voice in the piece. | The solution to the character’s problem is easy to understand, and is somewhat logical. The author provides a good sense of closure.  There is evidence the author used appropriate voice in the piece. | The solution to the character's problem is somewhat difficult to understand. The author provides ample sense of closure.  The author attempted to use his/her voice in the piece. | No solution is attempted, or it is difficult to understand the author’s reaction. There is little or no sense of closure.  Inappropriate or no evidence use of voice can be found in the piece. |
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