

LEON COUNTY READING COUNCIL

Narrative Writing Contest

Grades 4-5 Rubric

CATEGORY	Innovating	Applying	Developing	Beginning or Not Using
Focus and Idea Progression	The author establishes a real or imagined situation and introduces a narrator and/or characters that capture the interest of the audience.	Most of the story is related to the topic. The story wanders off at one point, but the reader can still learn something about the topic.	Some of the narrative is related to the original idea topic, but the reader does not learn much about the topic.	While the narrative ideas are presented, the ideas lack fluidity and progression of the author's original purpose. No purpose may be evident.
Organization	The narrative contains excellent organization with the sequence of events unfolding naturally. Temporal words and phrases signal event order with evidence of a variety of excellent transitional word choices.	The narrative is satisfactorily organized. One idea or scene may seem out of place. Clear transitions are used but are predictable for the expected level of the author.	The narrative may be difficult to follow. The transitions are sometimes not clear or are too basic for this level.	Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged.
Creativity/ Use of Literary Devices and Detail Development	The author uses engaging concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely. Dialogue and/or descriptors capture the full essence of the story showing an excellent portrayal of the responses of the characters.	The narrative contains a few 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 narrative contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the narrative.	There is little evidence of creativity in the narrative.
Reaction/Closure	The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand and is logical. There are no loose ends. The author provides an excellent sense of closure.	The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is somewhat logical. The author provides a good sense of closure.	The solution to the character's problem is a little hard to understand. The author provides ample sense of closure.	No solution is attempted, or it is impossible to understand. There is little or no sense of closure.