

Narrative Writing Score Sheet & Directions

Story Writing Checklist

By Anita Friede

• Introductory Paragraph Points

○ Topic Sentence - (4, 2, 0)

Look at the first sentence (may be 2 sentences). Score 4 points if the sentence is appropriate, mentions a character, mentions a topic, makes reader start thinking about the topic, & is complete. Score 2 points if it is appropriate and mentions the topic. Score 0 if inappropriate, irrelevant, fails to mention the topic, is a non-sentence.

○ Detail sentences - (2, 0)

Score 2 points for each sentence if appropriate, provides descriptive information about characters or setting, provides background information, is logical, and is complete. Score 0 points if inappropriate, irrelevant, not logical, does not provide descriptive information or background information, or is incomplete or run-on.

○ Thesis Statement or Beginning Event Statement- (4, 2, 0)

Look at the last sentence. Score 4 points if the sentence mentions the topic, mentions an event that leads into the rest of the story (or forecasts events to come in order), names a character, and is complete. Score 2 points if it mentions the character, leads into the story, and is complete. Score 0 points if the sentence is not appropriate, irrelevant, fails to mention an event, does not lead into the story, or is incomplete or run-on.

• Detail Paragraphs

1 2 3

○ Topic/Transition Sentence - (4, 2, 0)

Look at the first sentence. Score 4 points if the sentence is appropriate to the assignment, mentions the topic, mentions the character, leads into the purpose of the paragraph, includes a transition, is different from any other sentence in the story, and is complete. Score 2 points if the sentence is appropriate to the purpose of the paragraph, mentions the character, has a transition, is different from any other sentence, and is complete. Score 0 points if the sentence is inappropriate, irrelevant, fails to mention theme topic and subtopic, is repetitive, is a Detail Sentence, or is incomplete or run-on.

○ Detail Sentence - (2, 0)

Score 2 points for each sentence if it mentions a detail relevant to the type of paragraph that was introduced in Topic/Transition Sentence, is distinct from other Detail Sentences, is in logical order, and is complete. Score 0 points for each sentence if it fails to mention a relevant detail or subtopic, repeats a detail already mentioned, is not in logical order, or is not complete.

○ Transitions – (1 point each, up to 3 points total)

Score 1 point for each appropriately used transition word in the Detail Sentences.

- **Concluding Paragraph**

- **Concluding Transition Sentence - (4, 2, 0)**

Score 4 points if the sentence indicates that the story is ending in some way, mentions the topic, names one or more characters, is different from any sentence in Introductory Paragraph, and is complete. Score 2 points if it tells the reader that the theme is closing, mentions a character, is different than any sentence in Introductory Paragraph, and is complete. Score 0 points if it fails to mention a character, is irrelevant, is a Detail Sentence, is like any sentence in Introductory Paragraph, or is not complete.

- **Detail Sentences – (2)**

Score 2 points for each Detail Sentence that is appropriate/relevant to the ending, mentions a detail related to the ending events, is distinct from other sentences, is in logical sequence, and is complete. Score 0 points if it is not relevant to the ending events, fails to mention a detail relevant to the ending, is repetitive, is not in logical order, or is not complete.

- **Clincher Sentence - (4, 2, 0)**

Score 4 points if the final sentence of the Concluding Paragraph is appropriate to the assignment and topic, mentions the message, closes the story gracefully, is different from any other sentence in the story, and is complete. Score 2 points if it is appropriate to the assignment, closes the story gracefully, is different from any sentence in the story, and is complete. Score 0 points if it is not appropriate to the topic and assignment, is a Detail Sentence, fails to close gracefully, is repetitive of another sentence, or is not complete.

- **Other Points**

- **Point of view – Circle one: first, second, third person – (3, 0)**

Score 3 points if all sentences are written from the same point of view. Score 0 points if they are not.

- **Tense – Circle one: past, present, future – (3, 0)**

Score 3 points if all sentences are written in the same tense. Score 0 points if they are not.

- **Title – (3, 1, 0)**

Score 3 points if there is a title that is related and grabs reader's interest. Score 1 point if title is related to topic of theme. Score 0 points for title that is not related or missing.

- **Types of Topic Sentences – (3, 0)**

Score 3 points if all three types of Topic Sentences were used within the 6 major sentences of the theme—Topic Sentence, Thesis Statement, 3 Topic/Transition Sentences, and Concluding Transition Sentence. Score 0 points for less than three types used.

- **Variety of Sentences – (3, 0)**

Score 3 points if three types of sentences were used (Simple, Compound, Complex, and/or Compound-complex). Score 0 points if fewer than three types were used.

❑ Voice – (3, 0)

Score 3 points if the student's voice is evident in the theme. Score 0 points if it is not.

❑ Word Choice – (3, 0)

Score 3 points if a variety of words were used to make the theme interesting. Score 0 points if the same words were used over and over or uninteresting words were used.

❑ Subtopic Sequence – (3, 0)

Score 3 points if a logical sequence was used for the subtopics. Score 0 points if it was illogical or not apparent.

❑ Transition Words – (1)

Score 1 point for each appropriate transition word up to a total of 3 points per paragraph for the Introductory and Concluding Paragraphs.