**Utah Compose: Narrative Essay Rubric—Student Version**

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| **Writing Analysis** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Development**  **of**  **Ideas** | * This narrative is clear, controlled and focused, and is appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience. * Your narrative has balance and exhibits good control of connections between ideas. * You have expressed your ideas in a convincing manner by providing ample support. * Your narrative holds the reader's attention through details, facts, examples, anecdotes, and description that enrich your main idea or plot. * You have used appropriate literary strategies or techniques to develop your narrative. * You have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are effectively connected to the rest of the narrative. * An effective introduction and conclusion leave the reader with a sense of completeness. | * The writing is clear, focused and generally appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience. * You have used appropriate literary strategies or techniques to develop your narrative. * The points or events are clearly presented and move easily from general to specific. * The main idea and supporting details are successfully balanced throughout the narrative. * You have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are clearly connected to the rest of the narrative. * Your writing has balance and moves along evenly. | * Have you used specific details to support your narrative? * Have you used enough supporting reasons, facts, examples, details, and/or descriptions for the events and characters in your narrative? * Did you keep your task, purpose and audience in mind? * Have you used appropriate literary strategies or techniques to develop your narrative? * Does your story have a clear conclusion? * Are your ideas thoughtful and interesting? * Do you have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are clearly connected to the rest of the narrative? * Are your linking words and phrases clear and helpful in connecting your ideas? * Is your narrative appropriate for its task, purpose and audience? | * Do you need to include more details in your narrative? * Does your narrative have sufficient information, explanation, details and/or description to explain your ideas? * Are your information, explanation, details and/or description adequate enough to fully develop your main idea? * Have you used any literary strategies or techniques to develop your narrative? * Does your story have a conclusion? * Have you done more than just list or repeat the details in your narrative? * Do you have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are connected to the rest of the narrative? * Can the reader easily follow what you are saying? | * Have you written enough? * Is there a clear situation in your story? * Have you used reasons or details to support your main idea or story's situation? * Do your reasons and details all have to do with your main idea or story's situation? * Have you included a concluding statement or section? * Have you used any literary strategies or techniques to develop your narrative? |
| **Organization** | * Your narrative is appropriate for its task, purpose and audience. * The transitions or connections between your ideas are seamless and smooth. * Your narrative is carefully organized with well-placed details from beginning to end. * The writing is well balanced and moves along smoothly. * The organization of this narrative enhances and highlights the main idea. | * You have a clear introduction and conclusion that connect to the main idea. * The transitions between your ideas are appropriate and work well. * The details are generally well placed and relevant to the main idea. * The transitions between ideas are appropriate and work well. * Your introduction and conclusion are functional and connected to the main idea. | * Have you worked on making the transitions or connections between your ideas better? * Does the placement and relevance of your details cause any confusion? * Does your narrative progress logically from one idea to the next? * Have you written a clear introduction and conclusion to your narrative? | * Did you take into account the task, purpose and audience? * Are there connections and transitions between your ideas? * Are your details relevant and do they contribute to the main idea? * Have you attempted to write an introduction and a conclusion that are related to the main ideas in your narrative? | * Did you create a plan for your narrative before you started writing? * Have you written enough that there is some organization evident? * Are your ideas clear and linked together with transitions? * Are there any gaps in information that might confuse the reader? * Have you been careful not to ramble and jump from one idea to another? |
| **Style** | * You speak directly to the audience through expressive and engaging writing. * The language is natural and brings the topic to life. * The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words. * You have established and maintained a consistent, individual style. * You may have taken some compositional risks to enhance your writing. | * Your writing fits the task, purpose, and readers. * Your writing makes a connection with the reader. * You seem to be involved in the topic. * Your writing sounds like you. | * Is your writing appropriate to your task, purpose, and audience? * Are your points clear and easy to follow? * If you wrote an essay, is it written in formal style? * Have you used enough support? | * Have you explained your ideas clearly? * Have you written your narrative with your task, purpose, and readers in mind? * Does your writing sound like you? | * Have you written enough? * Have you thought carefully about your reason for writing about this topic? * Is your plot clear? |
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| **Word Choice** | * The words convey the intended message in an interesting and precise way. * The words are specific and accurate. * Your vocabulary is vivid, natural and not overdone. * Excellent word choice gives this narrative power. | * Are there places where, though correct, the words lack excitement? * Though your vocabulary is natural, are there places where it might be overdone? * The writing in this narrative is clear and easy to interpret, but it may not always be succinct. * The word choice in this narrative conveys the message in a realistic and reasonable way. | * Does the language in your narrative, though generally correct, lack precision? * Does your paper have clichés, redundancies or overused phrases? * Is there any colorful or poetic language used effectively to engage the reader? * Are there places where the narrative seems to be generic or ordinary? | * Do the words you have used lack specificity? * Are the words in your narrative general or dull? * Do you repeat the same general phrases over and over? | * Have you chosen the correct words to express your ideas and to make the meaning of each sentence clear? * Are you sure that the verbs, nouns and adjectives you used are the correct ones? * Do you use the same words or phrases over and over? * Are the words you have used specific? |
| **Sentence Structure** | * The writing in this narrative is very natural and fluent. * The amount of sentence variety present in this narrative makes the text interesting. * The writing is concise and effective in conveying your meaning. | * Generally, the sentences in this narrative are well crafted. * The writing in the narrative moves along at a fairly consistent pace. * You show control of both simple and complex syntax. * This narrative contains a variety of sentence structures and lengths. | * Are there errors in the construction of more complex sentences? * Is there a pattern of the same type of sentence throughout the narrative? * Are there places where awkward sentences force the reader to slow down? * Do the sentences flow smoothly one after the other or are they stilted? | * Do you have sentence fragments or awkward sentences that disrupt the flow of your narrative? * Have you used correct grammar throughout your narrative? * Have you used different types of sentences instead of just simple sentences? * Do all of your sentences look and sound similar to each other? | * Are the sentences you have written correct ones, or were there run-ons, fragments, and/or comma splices? * Have you used correct grammar throughout your narrative? * Are your sentences choppy or awkward? * Do any of your sentences cause confusion? |
| **Conventions** | * You have demonstrated a good grasp of standard writing conventions. * This narrative is sufficiently long and complex and shows command of a wide range of conventions. * Errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation are few, if any, and they do not interrupt the flow of reading. | * Although there may be some errors, you have demonstrated an overall grasp of standard writing conventions. * The spelling of common words is correct but may not be consistent for the more difficult ones. * This narrative is fairly long but the writing could show more evidence of complexity. | * Have you made some spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors that might cause some confusion for the reader? * Have you written enough to show that you have control of spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization? * Do you have consistent control over the paragraphing in your narrative? | * Are there very noticeable errors in your narrative that might make it difficult to understand what you are trying to say? * Have you made sure that your spelling, punctuation and capitalization are correct? * Have you used paragraphs correctly? | Are there mistakes in your story that make it hard to understand?  Have you used commas, periods, question marks, and exclamation marks throughout your story?  Is your spelling correct?  Have you used paragraphs correctly? |