

KEY TRAITS	4	3	2	1
IDEAS AND EVIDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction establishes a strong narrative context: it clearly establishes an engaging problem, situation, and setting. Characters are compelling, with fully developed traits and motivations. The narrative provides helpful background to explain events. Descriptive details, realistic dialogue, and reflection bring the narrative to life for the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction establishes some context but could do more to engage the reader with the problem, situation, or setting. Most characters are compelling, but one or two could be more fully developed. Helpful background is needed to explain one or two events. Descriptive details and dialogue generally create a strong mental picture for the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction establishes a weak context; it only hints at a situation, problem or setting. Many characters are in need of more development. More helpful background is needed throughout the narrative. A few descriptive details create lively scenes, but most details are ordinary; dialogue is lacking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction does not establish a narrative context for the reader. Characters are undeveloped; they have no clear descriptions or motivations. Necessary background is missing. Details and dialogue are unrelated or missing.
ORGANIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each of the plot stages (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) is fully developed. The organization is effective; ideas are arranged logically. The pace is effective. Transitions successfully connect ideas and show the sequence of events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the plot stages (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) are developed, but one or two could be improved. The organization of ideas generally is logical; the sequence of events is confusing in a few places. At times, the pace is too slow or too fast. A few more transitions are needed to clarify the sequence of events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several of the plot stages (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) are weak. The organization of ideas often doesn't follow a pattern, and the sequence of events is confusing in several places. The pace overall is either too slow or too fast. More transitions are needed throughout to clarify the sequence of events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plot does not have clear stages of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, or resolution. The narrative is not organized; information and details are presented randomly. The pace is ineffective throughout. Transitions are not used, making the narrative difficult to understand.
LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One point of view is used creatively and consistently throughout the narrative. Sensory language, imagery, and figurative language are used creatively to describe people, places, and events in vivid ways. Sentence beginnings, lengths, and structures vary and have a rhythmic flow. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are correct. Grammar and usage are correct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrative point of view shifts in one or two places. More sensory language, imagery, or figurative language are needed to describe some people, places, and events. Sentence beginnings, lengths, and structures vary somewhat. Several spelling, capitalization, and punctuation mistakes occur. Some grammatical and usage errors are repeated in the narrative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrative point of view shifts in many places. The narrative lacks sensory language, figurative language, and imagery in many key parts. Sentence structures barely vary, and some fragments or run-on sentences are present. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are often incorrect but do not interfere with reading the narrative. Grammar and usage are incorrect in many places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrative lacks a consistent point of view. Sensory language, figurative language, and imagery are not used. Repetitive sentence structure, fragments, and run-on sentences make the writing hard to follow. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are incorrect throughout. Many grammatical and usage errors change the meaning of the writer's ideas.