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Scoring Guide for Personal Narrative

Descriptors	Ideas Strong and creative story idea; specific, descriptive details; use of plot, setting, characters, conflict, and dialogue	Organization Unified structure, clear direction, and clever transitions	Word Choice Precise, rich language that expresses ideas and engages the reader	Sentence Fluency and Voice Rhythmic and flowing language, varied sentences, and unique perspective with ideas and details to appeal to the audience	Conventions Mechanical and grammatical accuracy
Weight (%)	20	20	20	20	20
6	**Exceptional** Thoroughly developed and detailed plot and setting with complex characters, effective dialogue, tension, and engaging descriptions	**Exceptional** Clever and engaging opening that leads to a smooth story flow with excellent transitions and a conclusion that ties story elements together	**Exceptional** Precise language with a variety of powerful and engaging words as well as well-structured and varied sentences; excellent use of senstory, concrete, and figurative language	**Exceptional** Extremely clear, natural, and flowing sentences with strong variation in length and structure; writing that shows a distinct personality; and style that is very well matched to the story	**Exceptional** Few or no errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling
5	**Experienced** Well-developed plot and setting with believable characters, good dialogue, tension, and engaging descriptions	**Experienced** Engaging opening that leads to a smooth story flow with effective transitions, story development, and a satisyfing conclusion	**Experienced** Lively language with a variety of engaging words, well-structured and varied sentences, and good use of senstory, concrete, and figurative language	**Experienced** Clear, natural, and flowing sentences with good variation in length and structure; writing that shows personality; and style that is well matched to the story	**Experienced** Few errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that do not affect the writing
4	**Capable** Adequately developed plot and setting with believable characters, dialogue that reveals character thoughts, and good use of tension and descriptive details	**Capable** Interesting opening that leads to good story flow and transitions that support the development of the plot	**Capable** Interesting language with some variation of words, structured sentences with some variation, and adequate use of senstory, concrete, and figurative language	**Capable** Easy to follow sentences with some variation in length and structure; writing that shows limited personality; and style that is appropriate to the story	**Capable** Some errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation and spelling that do not significantly affect the writing
3	**Developing** Insufficiently detailed plot, setting, and dialogue; flat characters and dialogue; undeveloped tension; and few descriptions	**Developing** Adequate opening that leads to intermittent story flow and sequence, weak transitions, and some sense of closure	**Developing** Ordinary language with insufficient variety, simple sentences with little variation, and some senstory, concrete, and figurative language	**Developing** Varied sentences that still need better flow, variation, length, and structure; writing that shows little personality; and style that is not well suited to the story	**Developing** Errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that cause confusion
2	**Emerging** Minimally developed plot and setting with characters that are described but not developed, ineffective dialogue, and a plot lacking tension and descriptions	**Emerging** Poor opening that leads to a hard-to-follow plot with poor sequence and transitions and a weak conclusion	**Emerging** Uninteresting language with no variation in word choice, simple sentences with no variation, and little senstory, concrete, and figurative language	**Emerging** Sentences that are too simple or incomplete; choppy writing; writing that shows unclear and inconsistent personality; and use of inappropriate style	**Emerging** Consistent errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that significantly interfere with the writing
1	**Beginning** No identifiable plot and setting, no development of characters or dialogue, lacking tension and descriptions	**Beginning** Poor opening with a story that lacks basic structure and sequence and an inadequate conclusion	**Beginning** Vague language with general and repetitive words, simple sentences with no variation, and no senstory, concrete, and figurative language	**Beginning** Incomplete or incorrect sentences containing errors and little or no structure; writing that shows no personality; and a lack of understanding of style	**Beginning** Severe errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that make the writing unclear

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