

# Student Narrative Writing Checklist

**Directions:** Use this checklist to guide you while responding to the following writing task.

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| General                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> The <i>title</i> captures my story in an original or creative way.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I show awareness of <i>task</i> , <i>purpose</i> , and <i>audience</i> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Story Elements and Literary Devices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I introduce the <i>narrator</i> and establish and maintain a consistent <i>point of view</i> unless I intentionally write from multiple viewpoints.<br><input type="checkbox"/> My beginning <i>engages</i> readers. I present a <i>setting</i> , <i>characters</i> , and a <i>central conflict</i> that set my story in motion.<br><input type="checkbox"/> My <i>plot</i> is original; the story is <i>well paced</i> and <i>developed</i> .<br><input type="checkbox"/> I sequence the <i>events</i> in a <i>logical order</i> . If I use multiple plotlines, flashbacks, or flash forward, readers can follow the storyline.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I build gripping <i>suspense</i> that creates tension and present a <i>climax</i> that shows the turning point.<br><input type="checkbox"/> My <i>dialogue</i> purposefully moves the plot forward by revealing feelings, interactions between characters, or reactions to setting or events. <i>Dialogue tags</i> , when necessary, enhance the dialogue.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I use <i>dialect</i> , as appropriate, to signify a character's geographical origin, social status, bias, or era in which he or she lives.<br><input type="checkbox"/> My <i>ending</i> resolves the central conflict and answers questions readers might have. |
| Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I use precise and accurate <i>vocabulary</i> and avoid unnecessary repetition.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I compose relevant <i>figurative language</i> —such as imagery, simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole—to vividly describe events, settings, and characters and to elicit a mood.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I include strong <i>verbs</i> in dialogue tags and describe reactions, gestures, or movements only as needed (not overdone).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Sentence Structure and Transitions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My writing does not include <i>run-on sentences</i> or <i>fragments</i> .<br><input type="checkbox"/> I vary my <i>sentence beginnings</i> and use different <i>sentence patterns</i> for rhythm and stylistic effect.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I include <i>parallel construction</i> to enhance my writing.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I add appropriate and varied <i>transitions</i> to connect sentences so my writing flows, to convey event sequence, and to show shifts in time and place.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Grammar, Conventions, and Format                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I use proper <i>grammar</i> except for stylistic effect, such as writing in the voice of a character who does not speak in standard English.<br><input type="checkbox"/> My <i>conventions</i> are correct—using correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I use proper <i>mechanics</i> for dialogue.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I know when to use new <i>paragraphs</i> and indent them appropriately.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I <i>format</i> my paper correctly with proper margins and a heading. If I type, I use appropriate font style, color, and size. If I handwrite, it is legible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |