

Expect the Unexpected

4 Advanced

3 Proficient

2 Developing

1 Emerging



Plot and Ideas

Establishes an effective plot, real or imagined, which helps to create a sense of unity and completeness.

The storyline effectively establishes an engaging, plausible context and is built on an exposition that supports the establishment of the plot. Purposeful description appropriately situates the conflict(s) or central idea that builds toward a climax and resolution. The plot and ideas completely fulfill the purpose and address the demands of the task.

The storyline establishes a plausible context and is built on an exposition that supports the establishment of the plot, incorporating adequate and sufficient description to situate the conflict(s) or central idea that builds toward a climax and resolution. The plot and ideas mostly fulfill the purpose and address the demands of the task.

The storyline establishes a somewhat plausible context and is built on a potentially inconsistent exposition that supports the establishment of the plot, incorporating some description to situate the conflict(s) or central idea that attempts to build toward a climax and resolution. The plot and ideas attempt to fulfill the purpose and address the demands of the task.

The storyline is incomplete or does not establish a plausible context. The exposition does not support the establishment of the plot and/or does not incorporate description that situates the conflict or central idea building toward a climax and resolution. The plot and ideas do not fulfill the purpose and/or address the demands of the task.



Development and Elaboration

Incorporates narrative elements such as setting and characters in a way that enhances the main events, advances the story, and/or reveals the central idea or theme.

The narrative establishes and maintains a clear setting while also introducing and developing interesting, engaging characters that advance the story and reveal the central idea or theme through meaningful and significant dialogue and description.

The narrative establishes a clear setting while also introducing and developing characters that advance the story and reveal the central idea or theme through sufficient and effective dialogue and description.

The narrative attempts to establish a setting, but it may not be completely clear. Characters are introduced but may not be developed in a way that advances the story and/or reveals the central idea or theme with dialogue and description.

The narrative does not have an established, clear setting. The narrative may be missing characters entirely, or they may not be adequately developed, with little or no dialogue and description.



Organization and Sequencing

Uses a natural, logical sequence of ideas/events to move the narrative from beginning to end.

The narrative utilizes a clear sequence of events to establish a beginning, middle, and end and effectively incorporates pacing to support the development of the story. The narrative uses effective transitions and other narrative techniques to signal shifts in time or setting, and the resolution offers closure to and reflects on the course of events.

The narrative utilizes a sequence of events to establish a beginning, middle, and end and incorporates pacing to support the development of the story. The narrative uses transitions and other narrative techniques to signal shifts in time or setting, and the resolution offers closure to the course of events.

The narrative includes a sequence of events that attempt to establish a beginning, middle, and end. Some pacing to support the development of the story is attempted. The narrative includes some transitions or other narrative techniques but may not clearly signal shifts in time or setting. The narrative includes some attempt at a resolution but may not successfully offer closure to the course of events.

The narrative does not contain a sequence of events that establish a beginning, middle, and end. Efforts at pacing may be missing entirely or do not support the development of the story. Transitions and other narrative techniques to signal shifts in time or setting may be missing or are confusing. A resolution that offers closure to the course of events is absent.

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Language and Style

Uses language that conveys an experience and engages the reader.

The narrative uses descriptive words, sensory language, and figurative language to create distinct imagery and clearly convey setting, characters, and feelings. Writing is interesting and varied in a manner that builds the voices of characters, as well as the narrator. Point of view is well-established and consistently maintained.

The narrative uses descriptive words, sensory language, and/or figurative language to create imagery and convey setting and characters. Writing is engaging in a way that builds the voices of characters and the narrator. Point of view is consistently maintained.

The narrative uses some descriptive words, sensory language, or figurative language in an attempt to create imagery and convey setting and characters. The writing attempts to engage readers and build voices for the characters and narrator, but the attempts may be inconsistent or not wholly effective. Point of view may be unclear at times or inconsistent.

Descriptive words, sensory language, and figurative language are used sparingly, if at all, and do not create imagery or convey setting and characters. The writing is not engaging and does not build clear voices for the characters or narrator. Point of view is not established or is not consistent.