

Smarter Balanced, Grades 3 to 8

Performance Task Writing Rubric, Narrative

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Correlating Points on the *Traits Writing Scoring Guides, Grades 3-8*

Organization/Purpose

The response includes:

- effectively establishes a setting, narrator/ characters, and/or point of view. (Point of view begins at grade 7.)

In his/her response, the writer:

- offers a rich setting that is easy to visualize.
- includes fresh, believable characters that grow and learn.
- offers a point of view that is appropriate for the mode, which compels the reader to read on.

The response includes:

- consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas; strong connection between and among ideas.

In his or her response, the writer:

- creates a piece that is easy to follow by fitting details together logically. He or she slows down to spotlight important points or events, and speeds up when he or she needs to move the reader along.
- includes a variety of carefully selected sequence words and transition words, which are placed wisely to guide the reader through the piece by showing how ideas progress, relate, and/or diverge.

The response includes:

- natural, logical sequence of events from beginning to end.

In his or her response, the writer:

- includes events that are logically sequenced and move the story forward. Time and place work in harmony.

The response includes:

- effective opening and closure for audience and purpose.

In his or her response, the writer:

- grabs the reader's attention from the start and leads him or her into the piece naturally.
- sums up his or her thinking in a natural, thoughtful, and convincing way. He or she anticipates and answers any lingering questions the reader may have, providing a strong sense of closure.

Evidence/Elaboration

The response includes:

- connections to source materials may enhance the narrative.

In his/her response, the writer:

- provides enough critical evidence to support the theme and shows insight on the topic. Or he or she tells the story in a fresh way through an original, unpredictable plot.

The response includes:

- effective use of a variety of narrative techniques that advance the story or illustrate the experience.

In his/her response, the writer:

- uses literary techniques, such as foreshadowing, symbolism, and figurative language, well.

The response includes:

- effective use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language that clearly advances the purpose.

In his/her response, the writer:

- uses many finely honed words and phrases. His or her creative and effective use of literary techniques such as alliteration, simile, and metaphor makes the piece a pleasure to read.

The response includes:

- effective, appropriate style enhances the narration.

In his/her response, the writer:

- cares about the topic, and it shows. The writing is expressive and compelling. The reader feels the writer's conviction, authority, and integrity.

Conventions

The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:

- adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling.

In his/her response, the writer:

- carefully and creatively constructs sentences for maximum impact.
- handles basic punctuation skillfully. He or she understands how to use periods, commas, question marks, and exclamation points to enhance clarity and meaning.
- uses capital letters consistently and accurately. A deep understanding of how to capitalize dialogue, abbreviations, proper names, and titles is evident.
- forms grammatically correct phrases and sentences. He or she shows care in applying the rules of standard English.
- spells sight words, high-frequency words, and less familiar words correctly.