

	Originality 1-4 points	Creative Expression 1-4 points	Storytelling 1-4 points	Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics 1-4 points
Distinguished (4 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is based on an original idea or uncommon theme. • Writing includes certain elements of originality. For example, in a unique voice or with an unexpected outcome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is expressive, including figurative language and detailed descriptions that engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is well organized and unified from start to finish, with effective transitions. • The writing style and content generally meet the needs of the audience. • The tone is appropriate and enhances the writing. • Sentences are carefully crafted to create fluidity, interest and variety. • The writing includes exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing demonstrates an understanding of grammatical conventions. • Sentence structure is varied when appropriate. • Careful word choice enhances the writing.
Proficient (3 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is based on an original idea OR includes certain elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is expressive, including some figurative language and/or detailed description. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The piece is generally organized and unified. • Effective transitions are used, but there are lapses. • The writing demonstrates some awareness of the audience's needs. • Sentences are effective with some variety. • The writing includes at least 3 of the following: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing demonstrates some understanding of grammatical conventions, with few lapses. • Some careful word choices are evident.
Apprentice (2 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence of original thought is present, but the writing is based on a common theme and does not include elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing includes some descriptive words and includes efforts at figurative language but needs improvement in order to engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The piece, while coherent, does not demonstrate an understanding of the audience's need for logic and order. • Some transitions are awkward. • Sentences structure is generally simple, with little attempt to provide variety and fluidity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are numerous grammatical errors, OR the sentences are uniform and simple. • A few careful word choices may be evident.
Novice (1 point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing feels like a retelling and has a common theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The piece is not organized and is therefore hard for the reader to understand. • Sentences are simple or fragmented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to a lack of understanding of grammatical conventions and/or poor word choice, the writing is difficult to understand.