

Grade 7: Rubric for A Short Story

Categories	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Reasoning	The student:			
complexity and connection of ideas	expresses only a few simple ideas	expresses a variety of simple ideas	expresses many well-developed ideas	expresses thoroughly well-developed ideas that advance the story line
connecting ideas to the story	connects few ideas to the story	connects some supporting details to the story	connects many supporting details to the story	connects almost all supporting details meaningfully and consistently to the story
number and relevance of supporting details	includes few supporting details and some ideas that are not important or relevant to the story	includes some supporting details and some ideas that are important or relevant to the story	includes supporting details that are relevant to the story	includes supporting details that are clearly relevant to the story and further develop the story line
Communication	In the student's story:			
purpose (to create a short story)	the purpose is unclear	the purpose is somewhat clear	the purpose is clear and effective	the purpose is clear, effective, and engaging
voice	writer's voice not evident	some evidence of the writer's voice	clear evidence of the writer's voice	strong writer's voice maintains the reader's interest
word use and vocabulary	the vocabulary is not effective	there is some effective vocabulary	much of the vocabulary is used effectively	almost all the words are used effectively
sentence variety (structure, type, length)	there is little sentence variety	there is some variety in the sentences used	a variety of sentences are used	a variety of sentences are used effectively
Organization	The student's story:			
overall structure (beginning, middle, end)	has no clear overall structure	shows some evidence of a beginning, middle, and end	A clear beginning, middle, and end	Has a beginning, followed by rising action, then the climax and a resolution
paragraph structure	contains little division into paragraphs	contains simple paragraphs	contains well-developed paragraphs	contains well-developed paragraphs that are closely linked to each other
Conventions	In the student's story:			
grammar, spelling, and punctuation	there are several major errors or omissions	there are several minor omissions	there are only a few minor omissions	there are practically no errors
visual presentation (e.g., indentations, spacing, margins, font)	presentation seriously impedes reading	presentation impedes reading	presentation of the text makes it easy to read	the visual presentation is clear and enhances the reading of the story

Adapted for classroom use September 2009