Carr 2015

Narrative Essay Grading Guidelines

**The A Essay will:**

* Have a striking introduction and a conclusion that offers an effective sense of closure
* Have a specific purpose/thesis that is well-supported by the story or stories the author chooses to tell
* A variety of sentences utilized in an effective and meaningful way that contributes to the overall message of their narrative
* Have a clear tone that is developed by proper timing, POV, and word choice
* Writer will “Show” and not simply “Tell” readers
* Have a strong sense of fluency and cohesion
* Use transitions purposefully and effectively
* Include effective and unique style and voice
* Is free of convention errors

**The B Essay will:**

* Have an effective introduction and conclusion that offers a sense of closure
* Have a specific purpose/thesis that is supported by the story or stories the author chooses to tell
* A variety of sentences but they may not be as effective and meaningful
* Has a moderately clear tone that is developed by proper timing, POV, and word choice
* Writer usually “Shows” and not “Tells” readers
* Have a sense of fluency and cohesion
* Have smooth transitions
* Include a mostly effective and unique style and voice
* Have very few convention errors

**The C Essay will:**

* Have an introduction and conclusion, but they may not particularly effective and could be bordering on weak
* Have a thesis, but it may not be well-supported by the story or stories the author chooses to tell
* Not particularly effective sentence variety which does not contribute to the overall message of the story
* May not have a clear tone throughout the essay
* May have more instances of the author “Telling” the reader instead of “Showing”
* May be lacking in fluency, cohesion, and transitions
* Have a style and voice that are not particularly effective or unique
* Have many convention errors

**The D Essay will:**

* Have a weak introduction and conclusion
* Have a weak thesis that is not well supported by the story or stories the author chooses to tell
* Sentence variety is not effective at contributing to the overall message of the story
* Tone, fluency, cohesion and transitions are lacking and weak and may impede understanding
* Primarily “Tell” instead of “Show”
* Have no real style or voice
* Have convention errors that may impede understanding

**The F Essay will:**

* Have a weak or non-existent introduction or conclusion
* May or may not have a thesis, and if present is weak and not well-supported
* Sentence variety is ineffective
* Have major issues with tone, fluency, cohesion, and transitions that impede understanding
* Primarily “Tell” instead of “Show”
* Have no real style or voice
* Have major convention errors that impede understanding