

Short Story #1 Rubric

Needs Work

Satisfactory

Outstanding

Ideas and Content (15 pts)

- Story topic is unclear
- The order of the events in the story is difficult to follow
- Ideas seem random, not connected
- It's hard to pick out the point of the story

- The story has a beginning, middle, and end
- The events are narrated in an order that readers can follow
- Ideas are clear, but there is a need to get more specific at points
- Some of the storyline is original, but some is predictable

- The story has a very solid beginning, middle, and end, and is clearly told
- The events are narrated in a logical order that readers can easily follow
- Ideas are clear, fresh, and specific; every piece adds something to the whole
- Storyline is original

Word Choice (15 pts)

- Words leave me feeling confused or unclear
- A lot of words and phrases are vague: "We liked to do things and stuff."
- Some words are misapplication - Oops, I mean misused
- Word don't make pictures yet: "Something neat happened. It was awesome."
- Over and over you used the same words, over and over, and then over and over again until your paper was over

- The words get your message across, but don't capture your reader's attention or imagination quite yet
- Everyday words are used well, but there's a need to stretch vocabulary
- There are a couple of spots of great words or phrases, but some better, juicier words would have been helpful in others.

- Each word seems to fit just right
- Words are colorful, snappy, and vital
- Wow! Check out all the energetic verbs!
- Some of the words and phrases are so vivid that the reader won't easily forget them.
- You've challenged your vocabulary in this piece

Sensory Language (15 pts)

- Does not include any sensory language; I am unable to see, hear, smell, taste, or feel the story

- Each of the five senses is "played to" at least once. I can see, hear, taste, smell, and feel the story.

- Sensory language is used throughout the story in a natural way. I can see, hear, taste, smell, and feel the story, and it feels natural.

Mechanics & Spelling (10 pts)

- Frequent errors make the paper difficult to understand

- Occasional errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding of the paper

- Three or less errors in spelling, grammar, usage, and mechanics

Format (5 pts)

- No or few are followed:
- 12 point font
 - double spaced
 - original characters
 - 2-4 pages
 - past tense used throughout

- All of are followed:
- 12 point font
 - double spaced
 - original characters
 - 2-4 pages
 - past tense used throughout