

**CCSS Narrative Writing Rubric  
Grades 3-5**

Score	Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization		Development: Language and Elaboration of Evidence		Conventions
	Statement of Purpose/Focus	Organization	Elaboration of Narrative	Language and Vocabulary	
4	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, is clearly focused and maintained throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effectively establishes a setting, narrator and/or characters</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, has an effective plot helping create unity and completeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies</li> <li>logical sequence of events from beginning to end</li> <li>effective opening and closure for audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, provides thorough and effective elaboration using details, dialogue, and description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effective use of a variety of narrative techniques that advance the story or illustrate the experience</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, clearly and effectively expresses experiences or events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effective use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language clearly advance the purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a strong command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>few, if any, errors in usage and sentence formation</li> <li>effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>
3	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, is adequately focused and generally maintained throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequately establishes a setting, narrator and/or characters</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, has an evident plot helping create a sense of unity and completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequate use of a variety of transitional strategies</li> <li>adequate sequence of events from beginning to end</li> <li>adequate opening and closure for audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, provides adequate elaboration using details, dialogue, and description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequate use of a variety of narrative techniques that generally advance the story or illustrate the experience</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, adequately expresses experiences or events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequate use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language generally advance the purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some errors in usage and sentence formation but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed</li> <li>adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>
2	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, is somewhat maintained and may have a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inconsistently establishes a setting, narrator and/or characters</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, has an inconsistent plot, and flaws are evident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inconsistent use of basic transitional strategies with little variety</li> <li>uneven sequence of events from beginning to end</li> <li>opening and closure, if present, are weak</li> <li>weak connection among ideas</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, provides uneven, cursory elaboration using partial and uneven details, dialogue, and description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>narrative techniques, if present, are uneven and inconsistent</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, unevenly expresses experiences or events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>partial or weak use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language that may not advance the purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning</li> <li>inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>
1	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, may be maintained but may provide little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may be very brief</li> <li>may have a major drift</li> <li>focus may be confusing or ambiguous</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, has little or no discernable plot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>few or no transitional strategies are evident</li> <li>frequent extraneous ideas may intrude</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, provides minimal elaboration using little or no details, dialogue, and description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of narrative techniques is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, expression of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses limited language</li> <li>may have little sense of purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a lack of command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscured</li> </ul>