

Grading Rubric/s

The rubric that appears below will be applied to the Narr RV and FV; grading for the Narr PV is generally holistic, as noted above. Generally, the papers being assessed will be read and a copy of the rubric filled out during the reading; the copy of the rubric will be emailed to the paper-writer as an attachment. Retaining copies of the submitted papers suggests itself as a good idea.

Please note that, in the interest of offering students practice in proofreading and editing their own work, comments offered through reproductions of the form below is general in nature. That is, they identify systematic problems and make broad suggestions rather than making line-by-line corrections.

Assessment Category	Comments	Steps Yes/No
Assigned Guidelines Met?	●	+0/-3
Relevant Topic Selected?	●	+1/-1
Core Message Present and Supported?	●	+1/-1
Characterization Clear and Appropriate?	●	+1/-1
Conflict Clear and Relevant?	●	+1/-1
Descriptions Clear and Appropriate?	●	+1/-1
Plot Easily Followed?	●	+1/-1
Formatting Correct?	●	+0/-1
Mechanics Correct?	●	+0/-1
Engagement Developed?	●	+1/+0
Total		
Overall Comments		

Descriptions of each category follow.

- Assigned Guidelines Met?—Does the paper appear in .doc, .docx, or .rtf format? Does it provide approximately 1,300 (+/- 25) words of narrative prose?
- Relevant Topic Selected?—Does the paper center on a specific event in the writer's life?
- Core Message Present and Supported?—Does the narrative offer some clear message and frame itself in such a way that the message is supported by the story?
- Characterization Clear and Appropriate?—Does the paper present at least a clear, well developed protagonist? If other characters are involved, are they realized in proportion to their narrative importance (i.e., is the primary antagonist, if a character, as fully realized as the protagonist, are supporting characters more than one-dimensional, and the like)?
- Conflict Clear and Relevant?—Does the paper present a central conflict readily and well, making it obvious to readers? Is the conflict one appropriate to the scope of the paper and the abilities of the characters depicted?
- Descriptions Clear and Appropriate?—Does the paper deploy sufficient sensory and other detail to make clear the setting and actors in the text?

- Plot Easily Followed?—Does the paper present a series of events easily followed, with transitions among the various parts clearly and thoroughly delineated?
- Formatting Correct?—Does the paper appear in double-spaced 12-point Garamond, Georgia, or Times New Roman typeface on letter-sized paper with one-inch margins? Are an appropriate title and heading provided? Are page numbers present, in their appropriate positions, and in the same typeface as the rest of the text?
- Mechanics Correct?—Does the paper adhere to the conventions of edited American English promulgated by the Modern Language Association of America and articulated in course materials? Does it evidence a level of diction and usage accordant with the likely expectations of the presumed primary readership?
- Engagement Developed?—As a sort of extra-credit item, does the paper avoid the use of trite and/or cliché phrasing? Does it offer some unusual perspective? Does it present materials in such a way as stand out favorably against common expectations for first-year college writing?