Creative Writing Contest 2020

Friends of the
Littleton Library
and Museum

CREATIVE WRITING RUBRIC

For the 2020 Creative Writing Contest, the committee decided to implement a rubric system. Our intent is to provide both authors and judges a tool to improve and evaluate their creative writing work.

Rubric explained:
A rubric is a great tool used by educational professionals as a simple way to set up a grading criteria. Rubrics are useful for students as well, as they define what is expected.

Rubric is a scoring tool that lists the criteria for a piece of work or 'what counts.' Rubrics outline criteria and levels of quality for each criteria.

Why we are using rubrics:
- Rubrics help authors and judges define "quality."
- When used regularly, rubrics help authors to judge their own work; which helps them to accept responsibility for their work.
- Rubrics makes it easier for our judges to evaluate an author's work. Judges will also find it easier to explain why authors got the score they did and what they might do to improve.
- Parents usually like the rubrics concept and find rubrics useful to understanding expectations of success.

Rubric criteria used for the Friends Creative Writing Contest:
Grades 1 through 4

Story Structure	Characters and Settings
Word Choice	Idea
Voice	Sentences Paragraphs
Spelling	Mechanics (Grammar and Punctuation)
Overall Presentation	

Grades 5 through 12

Characterization	Ideas / Settings
Organization / Sequence of Events	Overall Presentation/ Impression
Word Choice / Sentence Variety	Voice / Sense of Audience
Sentence Structure / Variety	Grammar / Punctuation
Spelling and Word Usage	

Creative Writing Rubric (Grades 1-2)

Element	Excellent 4	Strong 3	Fair 2	Developing 1
Story Structure	Logical communication of the topic	All sentences are about the same topic	Ideas are random without single topic	Ideas are unclear
Characters and settings	Characters and/or settings are developed	Characters and/or settings are known	Characters and/or settings are indicated	No indication of characters or settings
Word Choice	Many colorful adjectives, action verbs, and interesting phrases	A few interesting word choices are used	General or common words are used	Simple words with a minimal vocabulary are used
Idea	Ideas are well developed	Most ideas are developed	Some ideas are developed	Ideas are random
Voice	Word choices and organization create a clear voice identity	Voice identity is somewhat developed	Voice identity is not always clear	No identified voice to the writing
Sentences Paragraphs*	Writes paragraphs of 5-6 complete sentences	3-4 complete sentences	1 or 2 complete sentences	No sentences
Spelling	Known words are spelled correctly. A few words use phonetic spelling	Spells most known words correctly. Many words are spelled phonetically	4 or more known spelling words missed	Most words misspelled or spelled phonetically
Mechanics (Grammar and Punctuation)	Uses nouns and verbs correctly. Starts all sentences with capitals. Uses periods, question marks, and exclamation marks correctly	Misses difficult and plural nouns, and verb tenses. Most sentences start with capitals and end with a period	Does not use plurals or proper nouns, and/or verb tenses	Uses nouns and verbs incorrectly
Overall Presentation	Legible, neat, grade appropriate length	Writing is sometimes not legible or neat. Length is appropriate for grade level	Work is messy. Length may not be appropriate for grade level	Unable to read.

Total Score _____ **(9-36)** If Short Story, word count _____

*Grade level appropriate, from 1-2 sentences to paragraphs of 5-6 sentences.

Creative Writing Rubric (Grades 3-4)

Element	Excellent 4	Strong 3	Fair 2	Developing 1
Story Structure	Logical communication of the topic	All sentences are about the same topic	Ideas are random without single topic	Ideas are unclear
Characters and Settings	Characters and/or settings are developed with details and action	Characters and/or settings are known through details	Characters and/or settings are indicated	No indication of characters or settings
Sentences/Paragraphs*	Write several paragraphs of 5- 6 complete sentences. Complex and compound sentences are used without run-ons or fragments	5-6 complete sentences in two or more paragraphs. A few run-on or fragments are evident in compound sentences	5-6 complete sentences. Several run-on or fragments are evident in compound sentences	3-4 complete sentences. Compound or complex sentences may not be evident
Word Choice	Many colorful adjectives, action verbs, and interesting phrases	A few interesting word choices are used	General or common words are used	Simple words with a minimal vocabulary are used
Spelling	Few or no spelling errors	A few errors in each paragraph	4 or more errors per paragraph	Many words misspelled
Idea	Ideas are well developed	Most ideas are developed	Some ideas are developed	Ideas are random
Voice	Word choices and organization create a clear voice identity	Voice identity is somewhat developed	Voice identity is not always clear	No identified voice to the writing
Mechanics (Grammar and Punctuation)	Uses nouns and verbs correctly. Starts all sentences with capitals. Uses punctuation correctly	Misses difficult and plural nouns, and verb tenses. Most sentences start with capitals and end with a period	Does not use plurals or proper nouns, and/or verb tenses. Punctuation and capitalization used inconsistently	Uses nouns and verbs incorrectly. Little or no punctuation or capitalization
Overall Presentation	Legible, neat, grade appropriate length	Writing is sometimes not legible or neat. Length is appropriate for grade level	Work is messy. Length may not be appropriate for grade level	Unable to read.

Total Score _____ (9-36) If Short Story, word count _____

*Grade level appropriate, from 5-6 sentences to several paragraphs.

Creative Writing Rubric (Grades 5-6)

Element	Excellent 4	Strong 3	Fair 2	Developing 1
Development and Organization: the extent to which ideas are elaborated, using specific and relevant detail and organization to engage the reader.				
Characterization	Develops characters through dialogue, narration, and action	Develops characters through using some dialogue, narration, and action	Some character development	Characters are not developed
Ideas /Settings	Develops ideas and settings clearly and fully. Uses a wide range of relevant details to engage and orient the reader.	Develops ideas clearly; uses relevant details to engage the reader.	Develops ideas briefly; uses some detail to attempt to engage the reader.	Uses incomplete or undeveloped details. Does not engage the reader.
Organization/ Sequence of Events	Clear sequence of events are paced to unfold naturally. Uses appropriate transitions	Clear sequence of events that unfold naturally with appropriate transitions and pacing.	Attempts to sequence events. The plot is hard to follow in some places	Unclear sequence of events
Overall Presentation/ Impression	Unique and appropriate title, professional presentation	Appropriate title, neat presentation.	Unoriginal title, some attention to presentation detail	Attention to presentation is minimal or does not exist
Total Development/Organization Score (4-16) _____				
Language Use: the extent to which the assignment reveals an awareness of audience and purpose				
Word Choice/ Sentence Variety	Creative, concrete language. Uses rich sensory detail, precise vocabulary, and sentence variety.	Mostly creative concrete language and effective word choices. Uses some sensory detail and sentence variety.	Some use of concrete language and effective word choices, sensory detail, and sensory variety.	Little use of concrete language and sensory details. Few effective word choices and/or poor sentence variety.
Voice/Sense of Audience	Unique voice; strong sense of audience	Evident awareness of voice and audience	Some awareness of voice and audience	Mechanical/unsuitable voice; unaware of audience
Total Language Use Score (2-8) _____				
Conventions: the extent to which the assignments exhibits conventional grammar/spelling/word usage				
Sentence Structure/ Variety	Well-varied, correct sentence structures throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety. Some errors in sentence structure	Little sentence variety. Several errors in sentence structure appear.
Grammar/ Punctuation	Smooth, fluid error-free punctuation./grammar	Mostly correct grammar; errors do not interfere with communication	Errors occasionally interfere with communication; verb tense errors	Grammatical errors are awkward and interfere with communication
Spelling and Word Usage	Correct spelling; error-free word usage	Mostly correct spelling and word usage	Errors in spelling and word usage distract at times.	Misspelled and misused words throughout
Total Conventions Score: (3-12) _____				

Total of all Scores (9-36):   _____   If Short Story, word count _____

Creative Writing Rubric (Grades 7-8)

Element	Excellent — 4	Strong — 3	Fair — 2	Developing — 1
Development and Organization: the extent to which ideas are elaborated, using specific and relevant detail and organization to engage the reader.				
Story Structure	Establishes strong plot/ setting/characters/point of view	Establishes plot/setting/ characters/point of view	Some elements of story structure, little blending of dialogue and narration	Few/no story structure elements present
Characterization	Develops complex characters through dialogue, narration, and action	Develops characters through dialogue, narration, and action	Some character development	Characters are not developed
Ideas /Settings	Develops ideas and settings clearly and fully. Uses a wide range of relevant details to engage and orient the reader.	Develops ideas clearly; uses relevant details to engage the reader.	Develops ideas briefly; uses some detail to attempt to engage the reader.	Uses incomplete or undeveloped details. Does not engage the reader.
Organization/ Sequence of Events	Clear, purposeful sequence of events that unfold naturally. Uses appropriate transitions	Clear sequence of events that unfold naturally with appropriate transitions	Attempts to sequence events. The plot is hard to follow in some places	Unclear sequence of events
Overall Presentation/ Impression *	Unique and appropriate title, professional presentation	Appropriate Title, neat presentation	Unoriginal title, some attention to presentation detail	Attention to presentation is minimal or does not exist
Total Development/Organization Score (5-20) _____				
Language Use: the extent to which the assignment reveals an awareness of audience and purpose				
Description/ Word Choice	Creative, concrete language; uses literary devices and rich sensory detail and precise vocabulary	Assignment uses mostly creative concrete language and effective word choices. literary devices and sensory detail	Some use of concrete language and effective word choices, literary devices, and sensory detail in assignment	Little use of concrete language and sensory details. Few effective word choices.
Sentence Variety	Well-varied sentence structure throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety	Little sentence variety
Voice/Sense of Audience	Unique voice; strong sense of audience	Evident awareness of voice and audience	Some awareness of voice and audience	Mechanical/unsuitable voice; unaware of aud.
Total Language Use Score (3-12) _____				
Conventions: the extent to which the assignments exhibits conventional grammar/spelling/word usage				
Sentence Structure/ Variety	Well-varied, correct sentence structures throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety. Some errors in sentence structure	Little sentence variety. Several errors in sentence structure appear.
Grammar/ Punctuation	Smooth, fluid error-free punctuation./grammar	Mostly correct grammar; errors do not interfere with communication	Errors occasionally interfere with communication; verb tense errors	Grammatical errors are awkward and interfere with communication
Spelling and Word Usage	Correct spelling; error-free word usage	Mostly correct spelling and word usage	Errors in spelling and word usage	Misspelled and misused words throughout
Total Conventions Score: (3-12) _____				

Total of all Scores (11-44) _____   If Short Story, word count _____

Creative Writing Rubric (Grades 9-12)

Element	Excellent — 4	Strong — 3	Fair — 2	Developing — 1
Development and Organization: extent to which ideas are elaborated, using specific and relevant detail and organization to engage reader.				
Story Structure	Establishes strong plot/setting/ characters/point of view	Establishes plot/setting/ characters/ point of view	Some elements of story structure, little blending of dialogue and narration	Few/no story structure elements present
Characterization	Develops complex characters through dialogue, narration, and action	Develops characters through dialogue, narration, and action	Some character development	Characters are not developed
Ideas/Engaging the Reader	Immediately engages and orients the reader. Develops ideas clearly and fully; uses a wide range of relevant details	Engages and orients the reader. Develops ideas clearly; uses relevant details	Attempts to engage the reader. Develops ideas briefly; uses some detail	Does not engage or orient the reader. Uses incomplete or undeveloped details
Organization	Maintains a clear focus; exhibits a logical, coherent structure through appropriate transitions	Maintains a clear focus; exhibits a logical sequence of ideas through appropriate transitions	Establishes but does not always maintain an appropriate focus; some inconsistencies in sequence of ideas	Lacks an appropriate focus, but suggests some organization
Sequence of Events	Clear, purposeful sequence of events that unfold naturally	Clear sequence of events that unfold naturally.	Attempts to sequence events. The plot is hard to follow in some places	Unclear sequence of events
Overall Presentation/ Impression	Unique and appropriate title, professional presentation.	Appropriate Title, neat presentation.	Unoriginal title, some attention to presentation detail	Attention to presentation is minimal or does not exist
Total Development/Organization Score (6-24) _____				
Language Use: the extent to which the assignment reveals an awareness of audience and purpose				
Description	Creative, concrete language; uses literary devices and rich sensory detail	Assignment uses mostly creative concrete language. literary devices and sensory detail	Some use of concrete language, literary devices, and sensory detail in assignment	Little use of concrete language, literary devices or sensory detail in assignment
Word Choice	Uses sophisticated precise vocabulary	Effective word choices	Some effective word choices	Few effective word choices
Sentence Variety	Well-varied sentence structure throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety	Little sentence variety
Voice/Sense of Audience	Unique voice; strong sense of audience	Evident awareness of voice and audience	Some awareness of voice and audience	Mechanical/unsuitable voice; unaware of aud.
Total Language Use Score (4-16) _____				
Conventions: the extent to which the assignments exhibits conventional grammar/spelling/word usage				
Sentence Structure/ Variety	Well-varied, correct sentence structures throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety. Some errors in sentence structure	Little sentence variety. Several errors in sentence structure appear.
Grammar/ Punctuation	Smooth, fluid error-free punctuation./grammar	Mostly correct grammar; errors do not interfere with communication	Errors occasionally inter-fere with communication; verb tense errors	Grammatical errors are awkward and interfere with communication
Spelling and Word Usage	Correct spelling; error-free word usage	Mostly correct spelling and word usage	Errors in spelling and word usage	Misspelled and misused words throughout
Total Conventions Score: (3-12) _____				

Total of all Scores(13-52) _____   If Short Story, word count _____