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|  | Proficient | | Non-proficient | |
|  | Thorough Understanding (4) | Adequate Understanding  (3) | Partial Understanding (2) | Minimal Understanding (1) |
| Narrative Focus | Clearly focused and maintained on the task throughout  Effectively establishes a situation/setting to orient the reader  Effectively establishes a narrator and/or characters to orient the reader | Adequately focused and maintained on the task throughout  Adequately establishes a situation/setting to orient the reader  Adequately establishes a narrator and/or characters to orient the reader | Somewhat focused and maintained on the task **or** minor drift from the task  Inconsistently establishes a situation/setting that may orient the reader  Inconsistently establishes a narrator and/or characters that may orient the reader | Little focus **or** very brief **or** major drift **or** confusing **or** lacks focus  Lacks situation/setting  Lacks narrator and/or characters |
| Organization | Effective opening for audience and purpose  Effective plot creates unity and completeness  Natural and logical sequence of events from beginning to end  Effectively uses a variety of linking words and phrases to connect ideas  Effective closure/conclusion for audience and purpose | Adequate opening for audience and purpose  Adequate plot creates unity and completeness (may have minor flaws and some loosely connected ideas)  Adequate sequence of events from beginning to end (may have minor flaws)  Adequately uses a variety of linking words and phrases to connect ideas (some ideas may be loosely connected)  Adequate closure/conclusion for audience and purpose | Weak opening that may not address audience and purpose  Uneven **or** flawed plot  Frequent extraneous ideas intrude **or** lacks sequence of events  Few **or** no linking words and phrases are evident  Limited **or** lacks closure/conclusion | Lacks opening  Little **or** no discernible plot  Frequent extraneous ideas intrude **or** lacks progression of ideas  Few **or** no linking words and phrases are evident  Lacks concluding statement/ section |
| Elaboration of Narrative | Narrative techniques effectively advances the story or illustrate the experience  Thorough and effective elaboration of details  Thorough and effective use of dialogue (when useful)  Thorough and effective use of description | Narrative techniques adequately advances the story or illustrate the experience  Adequate use of elaboration of details  Adequate use of dialogue (when useful)  Adequate use of description | Narrative techniques uneven **or** inconsistently advances the story or illustrates the experience  Uneven **or** cursory use of elaboration of details  Uneven **or** cursory use of dialogue (when useful)  Uneven **or** cursory use of description | Use of narrative techniques is minimal **or** in error **or** irrelevant **or** absent  Minimal **or** no elaboration of details  Minimal **or** no dialogue (when useful)  Minimal **or** no description |
| Language and Vocabulary | Effective use of sensory details clearly advances the purpose  Effective use of concrete words and phrases clearly advances the purpose  Effective use of figurative language that clearly advances the purpose | Adequate use of sensory details generally advances the purpose  Adequate use of concrete words and phrases generally advances the purpose  Adequate use of figurative language that generally advances the purpose | Partial **or** weak use of sensory details may not advance the purpose  Partial **or** weak use of concrete words and phrases may not advance the purpose  Partial **or** weak use of figurative language may not advance the purpose | Vague **or** confusing **or** lacks sensory details  Vague **or** confusing **or** lacks concrete words  Vague **or** confusing **or** missing figurative language |
| Conventions | **Effectively and consistently:**  Few, if any, errors in usage and sentence formation  Effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization,  and spelling | **Adequately:**  Some errors in usage and sentence formation are present (no systematic pattern of errors)  Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling | **Inconsistently:**  Frequent errors in usage and sentence formation may obscure meaning  Inconsistent use of  punctuation, capitalization,  and spelling | **Rarely:**  Severe errors in usage and sentence formation obscure meaning  Severe errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling obscure meaning |

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|  | **Celebrations/Strengths** | **Next Steps for**  **Instruction** |
| Statement of  Purpose/Focus |  |  |
| Organization |  |  |
| Elaboration of Evidence |  |  |
| Language and Vocabulary |  |  |
| Conventions |  |  |