

Narrative Writing Checklist

	Grade 3	Grade 4
	Structure	Structure
Overall	I told the story bit by bit.	I wrote the important part of an event bit by bit and took out unimportant parts.
Lead	I wrote a beginning in which I helped readers know who the characters were and what the setting was in my story.	I wrote a beginning in which I showed what was happening and where, getting readers into the world of the story.
Transitions	I told my story in order by using phrases such as <i>a little later</i> and <i>after that</i> .	I showed how much time went by with words and phrases that mark time such as <i>just then</i> and <i>suddenly</i> (to show when things happened quickly) or <i>after a while</i> and <i>a little later</i> (to show when a little time passed).
Ending	I chose the action, talk, or feeling that would make a good ending and worked to write it well.	I wrote an ending that connected to the beginning or the middle of the story. I used action, dialogue, or feeling to bring my story to a close.
Organization	I used paragraphs and skipped lines to separate what happened first from what happened later (and finally) in my story.	I used paragraphs to separate the different parts or times of the story or to show when a new character was speaking.
	Development	Development
Elaboration	I worked to show what happened to (and in) my characters.	I added more to the heart of my story, including not only actions and dialogue but also thought and feelings.
Craft	I not only told my story, but also wrote it in ways that got readers to picture what was happening and that brought my story to life.	I showed <i>why</i> characters did what they did by including their thinking.
		I made some parts of the story go quickly, some slowly.
		I included precise and sometimes sensory details and used figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification) to bring my story to life.
		I used a storytelling voice and conveyed the emotion or tone of my story through description, phrases, dialogue, and thoughts.