

# Step Write Up®



## THE NARRATIVE RUBRIC

High school-ready writers should be able to write about real or imagined experiences or events by using vivid details in a sequence of moments or scenes.

### IDEAS

"Ideas" refers to the originality and clarity of ideas in the piece of writing.  
Good writers generate and convey fresh ideas and avoid dull, obvious observations.

#### ☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Narrative is underdeveloped.
- ☐ Ideas rarely connect to the topic.
- ☐ Purpose is not clear.

#### ☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Narrative provides a real or imagined experience or event.
- ☐ Ideas usually stay on topic.
- ☐ Purpose is somewhat clear and recognizable.

#### ☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Narrative successfully develops a real or imagined experience or event.
- ☐ Ideas consistently stay on topic.
- ☐ Purpose is clear and recognizable (e.g., inform, instruct, persuade, entertain, etc.).

### ORGANIZATION

"Organization" refers to the structure or framework in which the ideas are arranged.  
Good writers smoothly and logically arrange their ideas so that readers don't get lost or confused.

#### ☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Narrative does not engage or orient reader.
- ☐ Narrative does not smoothly move from one experience to another.
- ☐ Narrative does not use techniques to sequence events.
- ☐ Conclusion is abrupt or nonexistent.

#### ☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Narrative somewhat engages and orients the reader.
- ☐ Narrative attempts to create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
- ☐ Narrative uses some techniques to sequence events.
- ☐ Conclusion is present if appropriate.

#### ☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Narrative engages and orients the reader (e.g., conflict, observation, character, point of view, etc.).
- ☐ Narrative creates a smooth progression of experiences or events.
- ☐ Narrative uses a variety of techniques to sequence events (e.g., flashbacks, foreshadowing, etc.).
- ☐ Conclusion appropriate to the genre is successfully provided.

## SUPPORT

“Support” refers to the level of detail you provide to color and enlarge your ideas. Good writers incorporate and arrange ample details and examples to support the focus of the essay.

### ☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Literary and narrative techniques are not present.
- ☐ Insufficient development of plot, characters, etc.
- ☐ Details do not convey pictures of experiences for the reader.

### ☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Literary and narrative techniques are attempted.
- ☐ Sufficient development of plot, characters, conflict, and setting is used when appropriate.
- ☐ Details convey basic pictures of experiences for the reader.

### ☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Literary and narrative techniques are skillfully used (e.g., dialogue, repetition, description, etc.).
- ☐ Thorough development of plot, characters, conflict, and setting is used when appropriate.
- ☐ Details convey vivid pictures of experiences for the reader.

## STYLE

“Style” refers to the uniqueness and appropriateness of your writing voice throughout the essay. While good writers select words and construct sentences that reflect an appropriate voice for the writing occasion, they also use vivid, colorful language to convey personality and tone.

### ☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Voice is not suitable to purpose, audience, and assignment.
- ☐ Word choice is basic or repetitive.
- ☐ Narrative does not use figurative or sensory language.
- ☐ Narrative lacks variety of sentence style or structure.

### ☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Voice is not always suitable to purpose, audience, and assignment.
- ☐ Word choice is generic or simplistic.
- ☐ Narrative attempts to use figurative and sensory language.
- ☐ A limited variety of sentence styles is used.

### ☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Voice is suitable to purpose, audience, and assignment.
- ☐ Word choice is effective and precise.
- ☐ Narrative effectively uses figurative and sensory language (e.g., simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, etc.).
- ☐ A variety of sentence styles is used (e.g., simple, complex, compound, and compound-complex).

## MECHANICS

“Mechanics” refers to the “nuts and bolts” within the machinery of the essay. Good writers pay close attention to the proper use of punctuation, grammar, words, phrases, spelling, and sentence formation.

### ☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Spelling errors cause confusion for the reader.
- ☐ Writing shows minimal control of Standard English usage and grammar.
- ☐ Errors in punctuation and capitalization confuse the reader.

### ☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Spelling errors sometimes interfere with the reader's understanding.
- ☐ Writing shows inconsistent control of Standard English usage and grammar.
- ☐ Errors in punctuation and capitalization sometimes interfere with the reader's understanding.

### ☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Spelling errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding.
- ☐ Writing shows confident, consistent control of Standard English usage and grammar.
- ☐ Basic punctuation and capitalization rules are followed.