

Short Story Writing Rubric

	Basic 1	Sound 2	Thorough 3	Extensive 4	Score
Content	Overly simplistic No clear controlling central idea or theme	Evaluative elements may or may not reveal a controlling central idea/theme	Combines story elements around a controlling idea to reveal a thought-provoking central idea/theme	Skilfully combines all story elements around a controlling idea to reveal a thought - provoking central idea/theme	
Plot and Situation	Lacks analysis of a developed plot line	Provides a minimally developed analysis of plot line	Evaluates a standard plot line with complex major and minor characters and a definite setting	Skilfully evaluates plot line with complex major and minor characters and a definite setting	
Narrative Devices/ Story Details	Fails to use details, anecdotes, dialogue, devices, and/or action	Attempts to use details and/or anecdotes, suspense, dialogue, and action, but with minimal effectiveness	Anecdotes, sensory details and examples create a sense of the characters' thoughts, actions and appearances A range of devices such as suspense, dialogue and action (gestures, expressions) advances the plot, gives insight into characters, and keeps the reader informed/ entertained	Anecdotes, sensory details and examples illustrate a clear sense of the main characters' thoughts, actions and appearances A range of devices are analysed such as suspense, dialogue and action (gestures, expressions) skilfully advances the plot, gives insight into characters, and keeps the reader continually informed/entertained	
Organization	Little to no structure: Exposition, conflict and/or resolution/ denouement may not exist	Weak analysis of structure: Exposition, sequencing of ideas in body and/or resolution/denouement need some revision May be isolated events with weak sequencing	Effective analysis of structure: Engaging exposition Logical sequencing of ideas based on purpose and linked to theme Resolution and denouement reinforce theme and give closure	Skilful analysis of structure: Strong, engaging exposition Logical and effective sequencing of ideas based on purpose and skilfully linked to theme Resolution and denouement reinforce theme and give closure	

Voice	Unclear or no sense of voice, purpose and/or audience	Sense of purpose and/or audience not clear Writer's voice is not punctuated story	Writer's voice is confident, authentic and entertaining Reveals the significance of the writer's attitude about the subject/memoir. Clear sense of audience and purpose Consistent point of view	Writer's voice is authentic, clever and entertaining • Skillfully reveals the significance of the writer's attitude about the subject/ memorable incident • Clear sense of purpose and audience • Consistent point of view	
Word and Language Choice	Limited vocabulary; words may be used inappropriately or unnecessarily repeated	More precise and accurate words are needed to convey a clear message	Precise, detailed words or phrases get message across and reveal characters' looks, actions, feelings, reactions, and conversation • Uses academic language to enhance story	Words or phrases powerfully convey the intended message and skillfully reveal characters' looks, actions, feelings, reactions, and conversation • Academic language, embedded throughout the text/enhances story	
Writing Strategies Sentence Fluency	Little or no sense of sentence structure • Lacks transitions	• Some understanding of sentence structure • Limited use of appropriate transitions to connect sentences	• Purposeful use of sentence structure to enhance intended effect • Transitions connect ideas within and across paragraphs	• Purposeful and innovative sentence structure to enhance intended effect • Skillful use of transitions within and across paragraphs	
Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation)	Limited, inappropriate conventions	Uses appropriate conventions; errors occasionally obscure meaning	Uses appropriate conventions; errors are minor and do not obscure meaning	Shows creativity and flexibility when using appropriate conventions to enhance meaning	

Name: _____

Teacher: **K. Saunders**

Comments:
