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| **Narrative Essay Out of 100 pts (Negotiated)** |
| **1. Topic Appropriate \_5\_\_\_** |
| **2. Essay delivers its message/stays on topic \_10\_\_\_** |
| **4. Creative/uncommon [] \_5\_\_\_** |
| **5. Detailed/specific content/ enough ex. \_10\_\_\_** |
| **6. Essay breaks down into relevant para. \_\_5\_\_\_** |
| **7. Strength of imagery \_5\_\_\_\_** |
| **8. Grammar & Spelling \_15pts** |
| **9. Sentences& Para. 15 pts** |
| **10. Format \_\_AUTO\_\_\_** |
| **11. Consistent/Builds \_10\_\_\_\_** |
| **12. LENGTH (double spaced, Name, date at top) < min pages = 0/F**  **Between middle and bottom of page 4= -20 From top to middle of page 4 = -30** |
| **13. Cohesive/Sounds Good /\_\_10\_\_** |
| **15. Introduction \_\_5\_\_\_** |
| **16. Conclusion \_\_5\_\_\_** |

**Rubric Categories:**

1) Topic Appropriate (for audience and assignments):

**Higher points if:** you are doing exactly what the assignment asks, topic is appropriate and feels real with a tone of importance and uniqueness for the writer (as opposed to feeling like a generic exercise),

**Lower points if**: if the writing has less to do with the assignment, is more about product than the PERSON’s STORY

2)Essay delivers its message / stays on topic or is clear in its purpose or thesis:

**Higher points if**: Essay is reflected in title/ succeeds in its purpose. Impression of essay as a whole w/ 1 main idea or purpose. Lower points if: parts meander, go off topic or to side conversations; parts of essay .

4)Creative/Interesting: (this category always depends on having good quality details – category #5)

**Higher points**: if the essay is interesting, if its entertaining, keeps your attention, uses humor or good drama, makes you think, looks at a problem or topic in a unique way or conveys the feeling that the content is personally important to writer.

**Lower points**: if the topic is boring, overused, or generic content for its type

5)Detailed/Specific Content/Enough evidence or examples used:

**Give higher score if** most/all paragraphs have DETAILS and SPECIFIC EXAMPLES including stories, experiences, statistics, quotes, testimonials, figures, numbers, dates, etc.

**Lower the score if** paragraphs are summaries, with few direct details and exact examples, if your content could be told by anyone (not presented uniquely)if examples and quotes are poor/don’t prove the point; if comments added as padding

6)Essay Breaks down into RELEVANT FLOWING paragraphs that flow well together:

**Give a higher score if**: Paragraphs don’t meander onto other subjects/ideas, if easy to read & well put together, each paragraph has 1 main idea or ‘feel’ that is clear; paras. either have sentences that “closes” the paragraph or they transition well to the next

**Lower the score if:** too many ideas; paragraphs feel like cut and pasted sentences without connection and transitions

7) Strength of Imagery/Word Choice/Proper Tone:

**Give a higher score if**: if the image created by the details makes you “see” the event or description clearly. Word choice and images are logical and strong, flow well together in a consistent and appropriate tone

8) Grammar, Spelling, Correct word use: (1 pt per unique error, max 2 per sentence)

**Give a higher score if**: verbs and noun agree; tense is consistent; words are used correctly in their meanings

**Lower the score if**: spelling errors abound, sentence fragments, etc – most of the standard grammar errors

9) Sentence readability and Paragraph SIZE control:

**Give a higher score if**: Easy to read & well put together sentences, paragraphs are ‘size controlled’; sentences are clear and of varied lengths and types; sentences flow together into paragraphs (note: sentence level grammar problems like run ons should use category 8 – sentences category #9 has to do with readability)

**Lower the score**: if sentences are run-ons, make no sense, if you read the sentence out loud and it sounds poorly, paper is one long paragraph, if there are huge paragraphs that could be broken down into smaller paragraphs

10) Format: Final submission drafts of the major essays are:   
1) typed and double spaced,   
2)have name and date and section# on top (or on an optional title page for those following MLA format ),   
3)Margins of 1 inch all around (Not 1.25” as is often default in Microsoft Word etc)

**THESE ARE THE ONLY FONTS AND SIZES ALLOWED:** Calibiri 11 pt, Tmsrmn 12, Verdana 10, Helvetica 10, or Arial 11 (use wrong font =-5 + converted to tmsrmn 12)

11) Consistent/Builds:

**Give a higher score if** consistently follows one of the organizational strategies; if STORYLINE builds towards a climax or conclusion

13) Cohesive/Sounds Good:

**Give a higher score if:** Paper makes sense; sounds like a single paper, not scattered; flows from point to point; uses transition words between paragraphs but does not abuse them

**Lower the score if**: paper seems to start and stop; radically changes style in the paper, almost as if written

by two different people; tries to make one point but doesn’t support it or meanders onto a different topic

15) Introduction: **Give higher score if**: if intro interesting/ effective hook or tease or states your thesis   
**Lower the score if**: there is no intro paragraph; the intro is irrelevant/about a different topic; boring; too long

16) Conclusion: **Give a higher score if**: restates your thesis, offers a what if? or a memorable ending. Wraps up your paper; wraps up your opinion

**Lower the score if**: there is no conclusion; the conclusion is irrelevant/doesn’t work as an ending; too long.