## Smarter Balanced Narrative Writing Rubric
### Grades 3-8

<table>
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</table>
| 4     | The narrative, real or imagined, is clearly focused and maintained throughout:  
• Effectively establishes a setting, narrator and/or characters. | The narrative, real or imagined, has an effective plot helping create unity and completeness:  
• Effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies.  
• Logical sequence of events from beginning to end.  
• Effective opening and closure for audience and purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, provides thorough and effective elaboration using details, dialogue, and description:  
• Effective use of a variety of narrative techniques that advance the story or illustrate the experience. | The narrative, real or imagined, clearly and effectively expresses experiences or events:  
• Effective use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language clearly advance the purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a strong command of conventions:  
• Few, if any, errors, in usage and sentence formation  
• Effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling |
| 3     | The narrative, real or imagined, is adequately focused and generally maintained throughout:  
• Adequately establishes a setting, narrator, and/or characters. | The narrative, real or imagined, has an evident plot helping create a sense of unity and completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected:  
• Adequate use of a variety of transitional strategies.  
• Adequate sequence of events from beginning to end.  
• Adequate opening and closure for audience and purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, provides adequate elaboration using details, dialogue, and description:  
• Adequate use of a variety of narrative techniques that generally advance the story or illustrate the experience. | The narrative, real or imagined, adequately expresses experiences or events:  
• Adequate use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language generally advance the purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:  
• Some errors in usage and sentence formation but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed.  
• Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling |
| 2     | The narrative, real or imagined, is somewhat focused and maintained and may have a minor drift in focus:  
• Inconsistently establishes a setting, narrator, and/or characters. | The narrative, real or imagined, has an inconsistent plot, and flaws are evident:  
• Inconsistent use of basic transitional strategies with little variety.  
• Uneven sequence of events from beginning to end.  
• Opening and closure, if present are weak.  
• Weak connection among ideas. | The narrative, real or imagined, provides uneven, cursory elaboration using partial and uneven details, dialogue, and description:  
• Narrative techniques, if present, are uneven and inconsistent. | The narrative, real or imagined, unevenly expresses experiences or events:  
• Partial or weak use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language that may not advance the purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a partial command of conventions:  
• Frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning.  
• Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling |
| 1     | The narrative, real or imagined, may be maintained but may provide little or no focus:  
• May be very brief  
• May have a major drift  
• Focus may be confusing or ambiguous. | The narrative, real or imagined, has little or no discernable plot:  
• Few or no transitional strategies are evident  
• Frequent extraneous ideas may intrude. | The narrative, real or imagined, provides minimal elaboration using little or no details, dialogue, and description:  
• Use of narrative techniques is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant. | The narrative, real or imagined, expression of ideas, is vague, lacks clarity or is confusing:  
• Uses limited language  
• May have little sense of purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a lack of command of conventions:  
• Errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscured. |
| 0     | A response gets no credit if provides no evidence of the ability to write a narrative | | | | |