**Narrative Writing Rubric: Grade 9**

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|  | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Approaching** | **Does Not Meet** |
| **Ideas and Content** | -Author engages and orients the reader by establishing a problem, situation, or observation that is particularly poignant or unique.  -Thoughtfully and creatively uses narrative techniques such as **dialogue**, pacing, **description**, reflection, and characterization to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. | -Author engages and orients the reader by establishing a problem, situation, or observation (W.1.a)  -Effectively uses narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and characterization to develop experiences, events, and/or characters (W.1.a.i) | -Author attempts to engage and orient the reader by establishing a problem, situation, or observation, but it does not hook the reader.  -Limited use of a range of narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and **characterization**, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. | -No attempt to engage and orient the reader by establishing a problem, situation, or observation. The writing has no purpose or motivation.  -Minimal use of narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and **characterization**, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. |
| **Organization** | -Sophisticated and insightful uses a variety of techniques to sequence events creating a coherent whole.  Follows all steps of **plot.** | -Effectively uses a variety of techniques to sequence events creating a coherent whole. (W.1.a; W.3.d)  Follows all major steps of **plot.** | -Limited use of techniques to effectively sequence events. Reader may have some confusion about how parts fit together.  Follows most steps of **plot.** | -Weak use of techniques to sequence events. Readers are regularly confused.  Follows steps of the **plot** but they may be out of order or otherwise too disjointed to recognize. |
| **Style** | -Uses precise words and phrases, telling details, and **sensory** language (imagery) to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters—sophisticated use of language.  -Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing cadence and flow of the piece. | -Uses precise words and phrases, telling details, and **sensory language** to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters--effective use of language (W.1.a.ii)  -Sentences are correct and varied, supporting and effective rhythm and flow of the piece. (W.3.a.iii) | -Uses less precise words and phrases, telling details, and **sensory language** to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters—somewhat effective use of language.  -Some sentences or sentence combinations are stiff, awkward, or choppy, thereby interrupting the flow of the piece. | -Uses minimal words and phrases, telling details, and **sensory language** to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters—weak use of language.  -Choppy or simplistic sentence structure makes the text difficult to read. |
| **Conventions** | -Rare errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage and grammar and/or paragraphing do not impede communication. Author thoughtfully manipulates above grade-level conventions. | -Rare errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage and grammar and/or paragraphing do not impede communication. Author accurately uses grade-level conventions (comma, colon, semi-colon, paragraphing, and capitalization). (W.3.a i; W.3.b; W.3.b.i; W.3.b.ii) | -Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage and grammar and/or paragraphing sometimes distract the reader and make text difficult to read. | -Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage and grammar and/or paragraphing repeatedly distract the reader and make text difficult to read. |
| **Works Cited** | At least THREE or more reputable sources used. Each source has a properly formatted MLA works cited entry. | TWO reputable sources used. Each source has a properly formatted MLA works cited entry. | Two sources used but they may either not be from reputable sources or they may be incorrectly formatted. | There is only ONE sources listed; it may not be a credible source.  **OR**  There is no works cited page. |