

Writing Rubric: Writing a Short Story

	Ideas	Organization
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story strongly implies or powerfully states a clear and insightful theme. The story includes a compelling plot with consistent rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, and resolution. The story shows a deep, sensitive understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The setting of the story is presented clearly and vividly, clearly showing time, geographical setting, and environment. The characters in the story are fully developed and believable. The story demonstrates exceptional originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening grabs the reader's attention. The plot has a clear beginning (exposition), middle (rising action, climax, falling action), and end (resolution). The rising action effectively builds to a climax. The falling action is vivid and logical in sequence. The resolution effectively wraps up the story.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story implies or states a clear and insightful theme. The story includes an interesting plot with rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, and resolution. The story shows a sensitive understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The setting of the story is presented clearly, showing time, geographical setting, and environment. The characters in the story are developed and believable. The story shows originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening is interesting and catches attention. The plot has an implied beginning, middle, and end. The rising action builds to a climax. The falling action is logical in sequence. The resolution wraps up the story.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story implies or states a clear theme. The story includes a credible plot with rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, and resolution. The story shows an understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The setting of the story is presented, including time, geographical setting, and environment. The characters in the story are somewhat developed and generally credible. The story shows some originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening is adequate but not entirely attention-getting. The plot's beginning, middle, and end are not entirely clear. The rising action builds somewhat to a climax. The falling action is not entirely logical in sequence. The resolution incompletely wraps up the story.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story implies or states a theme, but the theme may not be clear. The story includes a plot, but one or more elements (rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, or resolution) may be weak or missing. The story shows a partial understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The setting of the story is generally presented, but one element (time, geographical setting, or environment) may be weak or missing. The characters in the story are incompletely developed and not always credible. The story only occasionally shows some originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening is not entirely satisfactory and does not catch the reader's attention. The plot's beginning, middle, and end are not clear. The rising action builds only weakly to a climax. The falling action is not logical or credible. The resolution is less than satisfactory.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story may not imply or state a theme, and the theme is not clear. The story includes a plot, but it lacks more than one element (rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, or resolution). The story shows little understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The story lacks one or more element of setting (time, geographical setting, or environment) and physical or emotional setting is unclear. The characters in the story are incompletely developed and rarely credible. The story shows little originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening is unsatisfactory and gives the reader little incentive to continue with the story. The plot lacks a beginning, middle, or end. The story includes a climax but does not include rising action. Falling action occurs but makes little sense. The resolution is not satisfactory.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story has no theme. The story has no plot. The story shows no understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The story presents no setting. The characters in the story are not developed and not believable. The story shows no originality or creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening gives the reader no reason to continue with the story. No plot is developed. No climax is included. The story has no falling action. The story has no resolution.

Voice	Word Choice & Sentence Fluency	Conventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is consistent and effective throughout the story. The writer's choice of narrative voice is exceptionally appropriate to the story's theme. The writer shows actions and emotions without ever "telling" the reader what is happening. The narrator's voice is clear, consistent, and effective throughout the story. The narrator's voice is perfectly appropriate to the content of the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word choice is exceptionally precise and accurate, even artistic, throughout the story. Sensory details are explicit and vivid throughout the story. Sentences are varied inventively in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs flow smoothly together to form a unified and creative style. The tone clearly expresses the author's attitude. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All words are spelled correctly. The story contains no errors in English usage or grammar. The story contains no errors in punctuation, particularly with quotation marks in dialogue. The story contains no errors in capitalization.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is consistent throughout the story. The writer's choice of narrative voice is generally appropriate to the story's theme. The writer mostly shows actions and emotions but sometimes "tells" the reader what is happening. The narrator's voice is consistent and generally effective throughout the story. The narrator's voice is generally appropriate to the content of the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word choice is generally precise and accurate throughout the story. Sensory details are included throughout the story. Sentences are varied in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs flow smoothly together to form an identifiable style. The tone expresses the author's attitude. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost all words are spelled correctly. The story contains almost no errors in English usage or grammar. The story contains almost no errors in punctuation and no errors with quotation marks in dialogue. The story contains almost no errors in capitalization.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is generally consistent but slips at times. The writer's choice of narrative voice is generally appropriate to the story's theme, but not always. The writer only sometimes shows actions and emotions and more often "tells" the reader what is happening. The narrator's voice is sometimes inconsistent and not always effective. The narrator's voice is generally appropriate to the content, but not always. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word choice is mostly precise and accurate, but not throughout the story. Sensory details are included occasionally but not throughout the story. Sentences are somewhat varied in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs flow together but may not form an identifiable style. The tone often expresses the author's attitude, but not always. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some spelling errors occur, but not enough to impede understanding. The story contains some errors in usage or grammar, but not enough to impede understanding. The story contains some errors in punctuation, but not enough to impede understanding. The story contains a few errors in capitalization.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is not always consistent or effective. The writer's choice of narrative voice is sometimes inappropriate to the story's theme. The writer generally "tells" the reader what is happening as regards actions or emotions. The narrator's voice is generally inconsistent and ineffective. The narrator's voice is sometimes inappropriate to the content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word choice is only sometimes precise and accurate, and not throughout the story. Sensory details are only occasionally included. Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure but could use more variety. Sentences and paragraphs do not always flow together well and an identifiable style may be lacking. The tone occasionally expresses the author's attitude, but not often. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some spelling errors may impede understanding. Errors in usage or grammar may impede understanding at times. Errors in punctuation may impede understanding at times, and dialogue may be unclear. Errors in capitalization may intrude on understanding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is not consistent or effective. The writer's choice of narrative voice is often inappropriate to the story's theme. The writer only "tells" the reader what is happening as regards actions or emotions. The narrator's voice is not consistent or effective. The narrator's voice is often inappropriate to the content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word choices are generally not precise or accurate. Descriptive phrasing is rarely used. Sentences rarely vary in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs may not flow together. The tone is largely hard to discern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling errors impede understanding. The story contains numerous errors in usage or grammar. Errors in punctuation often impede understanding and dialogue is very difficult to follow. The story contains numerous errors in capitalization.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No point of view is attempted. The narrative voice is inappropriate to the theme. The writer does not address actions or emotions. The narrator's voice is not discernible. The narrator's voice is not appropriate to the content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word choices are haphazard and inappropriate. Descriptive phrasing is not used. Sentences do not vary in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs do not flow together. No tone is evident. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous spelling errors prevent understanding. Numerous errors in usage or grammar impede understanding. Numerous errors in punctuation impede understanding, and dialogue cannot be determined. Numerous errors in capitalization impede understanding.