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| Category | **Outstanding** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| **Followed****Directions****(20 pts.)** | Heading, title, easy-to-read font, double-spaced, 1” margins, <3 pages, 1st person POV. | One missing or incorrect element. | Two missing or incorrect elements. | Three missing or incorrect elements. | Four or more missing or incorrect elements. |
| **Idea Development****(10 pts.)** | Clear, well-supported and developed. Enhanced by the kind of details that keep readers reading. | Solid beginning in defining a topic or mapping out a story. Easy to see where the story is headed. | Main idea is clear, but the supporting information is general. | Main idea is somewhat clear, but there is a need for more supporting information. | Sketchy, loosely focused information forces the reader to make inferences. |
| **Organization****(10 pts.)** | The order, presentation, and internal structure of the piece are compelling and guide the reader purposefully through the text. | The internal structure and transitions show how ideas are connected. Details are placed in a logical order and make the writing interesting. | The internal structure allows the reader to move through the text without undue confusion. | Transitions clearly show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety. Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. | Ideas, details, or events seem loosely strung together. |
| **Voice****(10 pts.)** | Energy and passion for the subject drive the writing, making the text lively, expressive, and engaging. | Communicates successfully; shows why the reader should care or want to know more about the topic. | Sincere effort to communicate with the reader on a functional, if distant, level. | Fair attempts to make the reader care about the topic. | Distanced from the topic, audience, or both; as a result, the text may lack life, spirit, or energy. |
| **Word Choice****(10 pts.)** | Precise, vivid, natural language paints a strong, clear, and complete picture in the reader’s mind. | Words and phrases linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind. | The language communicates in a routine, workable manner; it gets the job done. | Words are communicated clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair. | Limited vocabulary or language that simply does not speak to the intended audience. |
| **Sentence Fluency****(10 pts.)** | An easy flow and rhythm combined with sentence sense make this text a delight to read aloud. | Almost all sentences sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud. | Text hums along with a steady beat. | Some sentences are stiff and awkward or are difficult to understand. | A fair interpretive oral reading of this text takes practice. |
| **Conventions****(10 pts.)** | Excellent control over a wide range of standard writing conventions, used with accuracy and (when appropriate) creativity and style to enhance meaning. | Minor errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation are hardly noticeable, and do not interfere with meaning or flow of the text. | Errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation catch the reader's attention, but do not interrupt the flow of the text. | Errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation catch the reader's attention, and interrupt the flow of the text. | Limited control even over widely used standard writing conventions. |
| **Creativity****(20 pts.)** | Highly imaginative and creative. | Imaginative and creative. | Shows some creativity. | Show very little creativity. | Unoriginal. |