

# Literacy Narrative – Rubric

## **Non-negotiables** (All of the following must be present to fulfill the requirement)

The author does not limit themselves to describing a single incident but grapples with their overall relationship with literacy.

The author has identified a “pain point”; something about their relationship with literacy they would like to improve or that they did improve. The author contemplates various ways to address this pain point, or they explain how they did address it.

## **An “A” Paper – Brilliant/Excellent** (38-42 points)

Demonstrates true thoughtfulness. Interesting and unexpectedly delightful

Title is clever and/or engaging

Opening is unexpected or otherwise intriguing

The story is thoughtfully organized, with fluid pacing and excellent paragraph structure

When/if appropriate, the author uses dialogue to bring the reader into the story

Powerful vocabulary with little to no repetition

A variety of sentence structures, used strategically to create flow and emphasis

Skillful use of transitions to create a unified, cohesive piece of writing

Vivid and specific detail

The writer’s voice comes through, making the piece feel lively and engaging

## **A “B” Paper – Good/Above Average** (34-37 points)

Wrestles with the topic but may be a tad predictable

Title is appropriate to the topic, but lacks inspiration

Opening interests the reader

The story is organized and pacing is mostly fluid, with a minor bump or two

Could do more to use dialogue

Good vocabulary that clearly, but not always powerfully, tells the story

A variety of sentence structures

Correct use of transitions

Writer attempts to use “showing” details, even if the technique doesn’t always work

The writer’s voice comes through but can feel a bit flat at times

## **A “C” Paper – Okay/Average** (30-36 points)

Doesn’t demonstrate thought beyond commonplace statements (EX: “Literacy is good” “Education is important,” etc.)

Title is flat or predictable

Opening is a general statement (EX: “I have always struggled with literacy” or “I’ve always loved to read”)

Evidence of organization exists, but paragraphs are not always well organized

Organization is confusing and pacing a bit off

Misses an obvious opportunity to use dialogue

Average, simple vocabulary or overly flowery language that obscures the meaning

Limited sentence variety

Limited use of transitions; at times, an inappropriate transition is used or is missing altogether

Needs to use more “showing” details

The writer’s voice is flat, too formal, or rigid.

## **A “D” Paper – Demonstrates Problems/Below Average** (25-29 points)

Relies completely on cliché

Title is just a restatement of the title of the work being discussed or just a label

Opening is confusing or is a cliché

Organization is confusing or illogical and paragraph structure is lacking

Dialogue is mostly missing

Flat vocabulary and/or inappropriate diction

Flow is mostly choppy and erratic; little or no sentence variety

Little or no use of transitions

Writer does not use any “showing” details

No writer’s voice is present. The words are lifeless or robotic.