**Revising your Narrative**

Now that you have written your first draft of your Narrative based on one of the pictures given in Week 3, it is time to revise it. Use a different color pen to make corrections from the suggestions below. **PLEASE DO NOT JUST DISMISS THE SUGGESTIONS BELOW. THESE ARE PART OF THE HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED**.

**1) Remember that** **your narrative should include:**

* **a beginning in which you set the scene and introduce the narrator and the characters**
* **a challenge or problem faced by one or more of your characters**
* **descriptive details and precise language to bring the story’s events, setting, and characters to life**
* **dialogue that fits your characters**
* **a well-organized sequence of events**
* **the resolution, by the story’s end, of characters’ problems or difficulties**
* **an underlying theme or message**

**2) Focus on your use of transitions**.

Transitions are words or phrases that help your readers follow the flow of events and ideas.

* + Look for places where you can add transition words or phrases to help make the sequence of events clearer. Do transition words indicate shifts in time and setting?

Narrative Transition Words Ideas

One day… One morning… One evening… First,

At first, After a while… As soon as… At last…

A moment later… In the meantime… Soon, Then,

Next, During… Suddenly, Yesterday, Shortly after,

Earlier, Eventually, Last summer, In the beginning,

After When While Next, In the end,

**3)** **Reread your Narrative out loud. Listen to how it sounds.**

After you have revised your body paragraphs for transitions, think about whether there is anything else you can do to improve your introduction and conclusion

* + Do you need a better “hook” at the beginning of your story to grab reader’s interest?
  + Do you need to add or subtract details or events from the middle of your story? Does your story drag a little in the middle or does it skip over important details or events readers need to know?
  + Does your conclusion wrap up the story in a satisfying way? Or do you need to provide more details about what happens to the characters?
  + Does your conclusion leave readers with a message about life? Do you need to have a character or the narrator state this theme directly? Or can you add details that hint at the theme?

**4) Look at how your characters express themselves. (thoughts, words, actions)**

* + Are you varying the types of sentences you’re using? Writing becomes boring when it sounds the same. Incorporating a variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences into your writing adds interest. Remember, a simple sentence has one subject and one predicate; a compound sentence contains two or more simple sentences joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (such as *and, but* or*or)* or by a semicolon. A complex sentence has an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.
  + Are you choosing words carefully? Remember that in writing, less is often more. Look for ideas or sentences that you can combine or delete to avoid unnecessary repetition, and make your word choice as precise as it can be.
  + Are you using a mixture of standard and conversational English? Use the language that best suits your narrator and characters, but also keep in mind that your readers need to be able to understand the writing or they will lose interest.
  + Does your dialogue sound believable for the character and their age, lifestyle and who they are supposed to be?
  + Are you using pronouns properly? If it is not clear to what or to whom your pronouns refer, your readers could get confused. Do not let small errors get in the way of telling an effective story.

**5) After you have finished revising the content of your story, look over your mechanics of how you wrote. Use this list to check for correct:**

* Capitalization
* Punctuation
* Spelling
* Grammar
* Usage

**Final Draft Checklist : \*Due May 17th. No late papers will be accepted.**

* Written on lined paper or typed
* Front of paper only
* Blue or black ink only. No pencil. If you accidentally make a mistake, neatly cross it out like this: ~~unicorn~~  or you can use white out/correction tape.
* Length: 2-4 pages
* \*\*If typing: **Font:** Times Roman Size: 12 to 14 only **Spacing:** Double spaced
* Superior neatness
* Superior effort
* Superior thoughtfulness
* Title from picture you chose is your title. Put at the top of your story .
* Heading in top, right hand corner.
  + **First, Last Name #\_\_**

**Date**

**Writing/ 3rd**

**Narrative Final Draft**

You will be graded on a 4 point scale below… (You are aiming for a 3 or 4 score)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Narrative Scoring Guide** | | | |
| **4 – Exceeding** | **3 - Proficient** | **2 - Approaching** | **1 - Below** |
| All “proficient” criteria *plus*:   * Uses humor   OR   * Uses suspense   OR   * Develops a theme | **Students will meet 6 or 7 of these requirement:**   * **Engage reader with an effective introduction** * **Use descriptive language for characters and events** * **Events are written in a natural, logical order** * **Uses dialogue correctly** * **Uses story elements—conflict, climax, resolution** * **Uses pronouns correctly** * **Good use of conventions** | * Meets \_5\_\_ of the “proficient” criteria | * Meets fewer than \_5\_ of the “proficient” criteria |