



TEEN ARTS HOLISTIC SCORING GUIDE

CREATIVE WRITING

Dimension	Distinguished	Advanced	Proficient	Emerging	Not Observable
Story Structure	Establishes strong plot/setting/character/point of view.	Establishes plot/setting/character/point of view.	Some elements of story structure are evident.	Few story structure elements are present. Little blending of dialogue and narration.	No story structure elements present.
Characterization	Develops complex characters through dialogue, narration and action.	Develops characters through dialogue, narration and action.	Some character development.	Little character development. Characters are indistinct or cliché.	Characters are not developed.
Ideas	Develops ideas clearly and fully; uses a wide range of relevant details.	Develops ideas clearly; uses relevant details.	Some ideas are not clearly defined.	Develops ideas briefly; uses some detail.	Uses incomplete or undeveloped details.
Organization	Maintains a clear focus; exhibits a logical, coherent structure through appropriate transitions.	Maintains a clear focus; exhibits a logical sequence of ideas through appropriate transitions.	Establishes but does not always maintain an appropriate focus; some inconsistencies in sequence of ideas.	The piece at times meanders because of no clear focus.	Lacks an appropriate focus, but suggests some organization.
Purpose	Purpose of piece is clear. Situation or subject described in piece is create and unique.	Purpose of piece is mostly clear. Theme is clear and unique.	Purpose of piece is somewhat unclear. Subject is not unique.	Subject of piece and message are mostly unclear. Subject is somewhat cliché and unoriginal.	Purpose of piece is unclear. Subject is cliché and unoriginal.
Description	Creative, concrete language; uses literary devices and rich sensory detail.	Writing uses concrete language, literary devices and sensory detail.	Some use of concrete language, literary devices, and sensory detail in the writing.	Little use of concrete language, literary devices or sensory detail.	The writing lacks concrete language, literary devices, or sensory detail.
Word Choice	Uses sophisticated precise vocabulary.	Effective word choices.	Word choices are sometimes unclear or ineffective.	Little use of effective word choices.	Word choice is ineffective.
Sentence Variety	Well varied sentence structure throughout.	Good sentence structure and variety.	Occasional use of sentence variety.	Little use of sentence variety.	No variety in sentence use or structure.
Sense of Audience	Unique voice; strong sense of audience.	Evident awareness of voice and audience.	Some awareness of voice and audience.	Little awareness of voice and audience.	Mechanical/unsuitable voice.
Grammar/Punctuation	Smooth, fluid error-free punctuation/grammar.	Mostly correct grammar; errors do not interfere with communication.	Errors occasionally interfere with communication; verb tense errors.	Many punctuation and grammatical errors.	Grammatical errors are awkward and interfere with communication.
Spelling/Word Usage	Correct spelling; error-free word usage.	Mostly correct spelling and word usage.	Some errors in spelling and word usage.	Many errors in spelling and word usage.	Misspelled and misused words throughout.

