

Criteria for Diverse Genres

CONTENT CRITERIA FOR NONFICTION

- Title is short and prepares the reader for the topic.
- Lead paragraph or introduction grabs the reader's attention, announces the topic, and/or presents the thesis or point of view.
- Topic, point, or purpose has been supported with specific details.
- Ideas have been developed.
- Uses appropriate nonfiction structures: cause-effect, compare/contrast, problem-solution, question and answer, description, and sequence.
- Purpose of the piece has been achieved: to persuade, to analyze text, to review a book, to entertain, or to be humorous.
- Closing paragraph leaves the reader thinking about ideas in a unique way.
- Closing paragraph logically grows out of the purpose of the piece.
- Purpose or point of the piece is clear.
- Topic has been narrowed and has a clear purpose.
- Arguments are strong and convincing.
- Knowledge of the genre's structure is apparent.
- Uses nonfiction features to effectively broaden ideas.

CONTENT CRITERIA FOR NARRATIVE

- Title is short, snappy, and introduces an aspect of the narrative.
- Lead grabs the reader and raises questions.
- Exposition includes setting, characters, and time.
- Plot is effective and contains a problem to be solved.
- Action builds to a climax.
- Develops personality of characters.
- Protagonist changes from the beginning to the end of the story.
- Uses writing techniques such as foreshadowing and flashback.
- Uses dialogue to develop character, provide history, move the plot forward, show emotions, and establish setting.
- Narrative showcases a specific genre.
- Narrative shows an understanding of the genre.

Criteria for Diverse Genres (continued)

STYLE (CRAFT AND TECHNIQUE) CRITERIA FOR NONFICTION AND NARRATIVE

- Voice is strong.
- Has varied sentence openings.
- Has varied sentence length.
- Verbs are strong and paint images.
- Nouns are specific.
- Uses active voice.
- Uses figurative language effectively.
- Ideas and arguments are in logical order.
- Has strong sequencing and organization.
- Handles time changes effectively.
- Weaves anecdotes into the text.
- Transitions between sentences are clear.
- Transitions between paragraphs are clear.

WRITING CONVENTION (MECHANICS AND USAGE) CRITERIA FOR NONFICTION AND NARRATIVE

- PARAGRAPHS ARE MARKED.
- Sentences contain complete thoughts.
- Uses capitalization correctly.
- Correct punctuation (commas, apostrophes, semicolons, colons) makes ideas and/or story clear.
- Correct spelling is appropriate for the student.
- English usage is correct (agreement of subject and verb, pronouns and pronoun references).

Criteria for Diverse Genres (continued)

CONTENT CRITERIA FOR POETRY

- Short title that announces the topic.
- Follows genre guidelines for free verse.

STYLE (CRAFT AND TECHNIQUE) CRITERIA FOR POETRY

- Shapes poem.
- Organizes poem into stanzas.
- Includes figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, assonance, dissonance, and/or onomatopoeia.
- Uses free verse.
- Uses graphic cues: dashes, uppercase letters, varied size of words.
- Starts lines with an uppercase letter.
- Uses end-stopped lines.

WRITING CONVENTION (MECHANICS AND USAGE) CRITERIA FOR POETRY

- Poem is punctuated or intentionally left without punctuation.
- Dialogue is correctly written in free verse.