Nebraska Department of Education Scoring Guide for Narrative Writing – Analytic – Grade 4

	1	2	3	4
IDEAS / CONTENT 35%	• The writer creates little understanding of events of the story. • Content has many digressions from the topic. • Supporting details are lacking. • Storyline is often repetitious, disconnected, or random.	• The writer creates a limited understanding of events of the story. • Content has some digressions from the topic. • Limited or unrelated details are included. • Storyline is occasionally vague.	• The writer creates a general understanding of events of the story. • Content is generally focused on the topic. • Adequate, related details are included. • Storyline is generally logical and easy to follow.	• The writer creates a clear understanding of events of the story. • Content is well-focused on the topic. • Numerous, relevant details are included. • Storyline is logical and easy to follow throughout.
ORGANIZATION 25%	• Structural development of a beginning, middle, or end is lacking. • Pacing is awkward. • Transitions are missing or connections are unclear. • Paragraphing is ineffective or missing.	• Structural development of a beginning, middle, or end is limited. • Pacing is somewhat inconsistent. • Transitions are repetitious or weak. • Paragraphing is irregular.	• Structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is functional. • Pacing is generally controlled. • Transitions are functional. • Paragraphing is generally successful.	• Structural development of a beginning, middle, and end is effective. • Pacing is well-controlled. • Transitions effectively show how ideas connect. • Paragraphing is sound.
VOICE / WORD CHOICE 20%	• Wording is lifeless and mechanical, conveying little sense of the writer. • Voice is inappropriate for the purpose and audience. • Language is neither specific, precise, nor varied.	• Wording is occasionally expressive, conveying a limited sense of the writer. • Voice is sometimes inappropriate for the purpose and audience. • Language is occasionally specific, precise, and varied.	• Wording is generally expressive, conveying a sense of the writer. • Voice is generally appropriate for the purpose and audience. • Language is generally specific, precise, and varied.	• Wording is expressive and engaging, conveying a strong sense of the writer. • Voice is well-suited for the purpose and audience. • Language is specific, precise, and varied throughout.
SENTENCE FLUENCY / CONVENTIONS 20%	• Sentences seldom vary in length or structure. • Phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural. • Fragments or run-ons confuse the reader. • Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors throughout distract the reader.	• Sentences occasionally vary in length or structure. • Phrasing occasionally sounds unnatural. • Fragments or run-ons sometimes confuse the reader. • Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors may distract the reader.	• Sentences generally vary in length or structure. • Phrasing generally sounds natural. • Fragments and run-ons, if present, do not confuse the reader. • Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are usually correct and errors do not distract the reader.	• Sentences vary in length and structure throughout. • Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. • Fragments and run-ons, if present, are intended for stylistic effect. • Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are consistently correct and may be manipulated for stylistic effect.