

Creative Writing Rubric - Prose

High Level	
Truth and weight	Does your writing convince the reader that you haven't come to page lightly, that the material matters to you, and that the question you are grappling with reveals something important about you and the human condition?
Relationship to reader	Does your writing deftly manage the relationship between the reader and the story? Do your decisions about the voice and position of the narrator and their relationship to the reader match the subject matter? Do you use a consistent point of view? If you switch, are transitions smooth and purposeful? Are your verb tenses consistent? If you switch verb tenses can you justify it?
Tone	Does your writing orchestrates all the writing elements-- words, imagery, sound, rhythm, dialogue, structure--to create a strong emotionally-slanted experience for the reader?
Mid-Level	
Description	Does your writing uses the five senses to create a vivid experience for the reader? Have you avoided cataloguing details that aren't essential to the story? Have you found specific packed images that suggest the whole meaning of the piece and draw the reader into the story? Are you precise in controlling what the reader sees each moment? Do you descriptions draw upon metaphor and avoid cliché?

<p>Character</p>	<p>Do your main characters have depth, with actions that suggest an inner life that includes conflicting desires and a relevant past?</p> <p>Do your characters have archetypal affiliations that drive their relationships with others?</p> <p>Does your presentation of characters come through action, essential details?</p> <p>Is your presentation of character consistent with the point of view?</p> <p>Does your dialogue reveal character, outline relationships, and move the story forward all at once?</p>
<p>Organization/Plot</p>	<p>Is there a strong dramatic question that creates a strong desire to know either "what's next" or "why" the characters take certain actions?</p> <p>Have you structured your story in a way that maximizes the impact of the moment of change? Do you have a compelling start that introduces a dramatic question, a middle with rising action, and an ending that responds to the question in play?</p> <p>Does your story foreshadow this response so that the reader experiences both surprise and satisfaction?</p> <p>Have you chosen the best parts of the story to show in scene and tell in summary and are the transitions from one to the other smooth?</p> <p>Is your exposition invisible and woven into the action of the story?</p>
<p>Setting</p>	<p>Does your story take place in specific locations and at specific points in time?</p> <p>Do your choices about setting actively contribute to the meaning of the story?</p> <p>Do these choices either reinforce or contrast with the character and the plot and contribute to the overall tone of the</p>

	piece through vivid and precise description?
Close Level	
Diction	<p>Have you chosen nouns and verbs that create concrete and specific images for the reader?</p> <p>Have you used adjectives and adverbs only when nouns and verbs are insufficient for precise description?</p> <p>Have you avoided abstract words that cause the reader to want more information?</p> <p>Have you done your job with as few words as possible?</p>
Sound/Rhythm	<p>Does structure of your sentences create a sound and rhythm that matches the subject matter, tone, and theme of the work?</p> <p>Is reading the text pleasurable?</p>
Mechanics	<p>Have you proofed your work and corrected misspelling and typos?</p> <p>Have you used punctuation correctly?</p> <p>Have you avoided confusing syntax and been judicious in your use of the passive voice?</p> <p>Have your written in complete sentences?</p> <p>If not, can you justify the use of fragments and incomplete sentences?</p>