

	Advanced	Proficient	Approaching	Beginning
<b>Descriptive Language (Word Choice)</b>	Piece is rich in sensory details, imagery, and sophisticated word choice, creating a vivid picture and uses figurative language without overloading the reader or using clichés.	Piece has some strong sensory details and word choice, but there may be too few or too many details, at times showing rather than telling. Uses figurative language with some success.	Piece has too few sensory details or far too many so the piece mainly tells rather than shows. Word choice is simple and/or repetitive. Attempts to use figurative language.	Piece is lacking in sensory details and tells rather than shows using empty words.
<b>Thesis/Theme</b>	The theme of the piece is well developed and nuanced.	The theme of the piece is clear and well developed.	A theme is present, but is unclear or underdeveloped.	Theme is missing or not developed at all.
<b>Organization/Pi Structure</b>	Organization/structure is executed in a sophisticated manner, adding to the overall meaning of the piece.	The organization/structure of the piece is easy to follow.	At times, the organization/structure of the piece feels disjointed.	The organization/structure of the piece makes it confusing to read.
<b>Conventions</b>	Uses conventions at and beyond grade level	Utilizes grade appropriate conventions and active voice.	Several issues in use of grade level conventions, active and passive voice	Major issues in use of grade level conventions: active and passive voice
<b>Sentence Fluency</b>	Uses a variety of sentence structures in a sophisticated way.	Effectively and appropriately uses a variety of sentences structures.	Sentence length and structures has some variety.	Little variation in sentence structure.