

Write from the Beginning  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade\* rubric for Personal Narrative Writing

1. The student writes multiple paragraphs with a minimum of **twelve** logically sequenced, complete and coherent sentences on a single topic. (7 possible points)
2. The student correctly spells most words in a written piece. (1 possible point)
3. The student correctly uses common capitalization and end punctuation. (2 possible points)
4. The student writes an opening paragraph that addresses the prompt and identifies characters and setting. (2 possible points)
5. The student uses detail to provide more information related to a topic sentence. (3 possible points)
6. The student uses descriptive words and phrases to help the reader more vividly visualize the events, person, or object being described. (2 possible points)
7. The student writes a closing paragraph that expresses some observation, opinion, reaction or feeling. (1 possible point)
8. The student uses varied and appropriate transition words and phrases denoting a passage of time or a sequence of events. (2 possible points)

**TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 20 points**

This rubric is used for grading some of our monthly practice writing assessments. 4<sup>th</sup> graders need to have a score between 16 and 20 to be considered proficient.

The benefit of this rubric over the general score of 1-6, is that it enables the teacher and student to determine very specific areas of strength and weakness. This rubric is also beneficial because it places more emphasis on the writing content, rather than grammar errors, so students get credit for their writing even if they struggle with spelling. This information is then used to plan for classroom lessons as well as focus on small group and individual needs.

\*Because this is a new program for our school, we are beginning with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade rubric and will work up to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade rubric by the end of the school year.