NaNoWriMo Young Writers Program: Suggested Rubric *(Grades 6-12)*

NaNo Noveling Skills	**Characters**: The compelling, complex people or creatures in the novel.	**Plot**: The clear, intriguing internal or external conflict in the novel, structured straightforwardly.	**Setting**: The locations where the novel takes place, which contribute to the conflict, characters, and mood.	**Dialogue**: The spoken words that advance the plot, increase tension, or define characters in the novel.	**Voice**: The unique perspective and ideas of the writer.	**Conventions**: The mechanical correctness of the novel: spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and paragraphing.
DEVELOPING	• The characters in the novel are uniformly unique, compelling, and complex. • The writer goes beyond a basic protagonist/antagonist relationship. • The writer utilizes a strong cast of supporting characters. • The writer uses a variety of techniques to introduce, and inform the reader about, the characters.	• The overall conflict of the novel is original and intriguing. • The writer adapts aspects of both internal and external conflict. • The writer applies the basic structure of set-up, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and climax, and may skillfully experiment with it. • The writer incorporates multiple subplots that contribute to the overall conflict.	• The settings in the novel are intentional, natural, and uniformly well established. • The writer effectively uses settings to convey mood. • The writer effectively uses settings to reinforce characters. • The writer uses a variety of techniques to establish and transition between settings.	• The dialogue in the novel is realistic and effective, and is most often used to advance the plot. • The writer uses strong dialogue to increase tension. • The writer uses strong dialogue to define characters. • The writer expends little space on expository dialogue.	• The novel has a distinct, confident tone throughout. • The writer can be "heard" in the novel. • The writer displays unique characteristics in his/her language and word choice. • The writer connects with the audience through his/her perspective.	• The novel demonstrates a strong grasp of standard writing conventions. • The writer has clearly proofread the novel for basic spelling, capitalization, punctuation errors. • The writer shows an understanding of grammar not only for correctness, but enhancement. • The writer utilizes paragraphing effectively.
EMERGING	• The characters in the novel are generally unique, compelling, and complex. • The writer may depend on a basic protagonist/antagonist relationship. • The writer utilizes a few supporting characters, though they are less effective. • The writer uses a few basic techniques to introduce, and inform the reader about, the characters.	• The overall conflict of the novel is original and makes some effort to be intriguing. • The writer depends primarily on external conflict. • The writer applies the basic structure of set-up, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and climax. • The writer incorporates at least one subplot that contributes to the overall conflict.	• The settings in the novel are intentional, natural, and generally well established. • The writer makes some effort to use settings to convey mood. • The writer makes some effort to use settings to reinforce characters. • The writer uses a few basic techniques to establish and transition between settings.	• The dialogue in the novel is generally realistic and effective, and is most often used to advance the plot. • The writer makes some effort to use dialogue to increase tension. • The writer makes some effort to use dialogue to define characters. • The writer occasionally expends more space on expository dialogue.	• The novel occasionally has a distinct, confident tone. • The writer can be inconsistently "heard" in the novel. • The writer displays some unique characteristics in his/her language and word choice. • The writer sometimes connects with the audience through his/her perspective.	• The novel demonstrates a grasp of standard writing conventions. • The writer has clearly proofread the novel for basic spelling, capitalization, punctuation errors, though some may remain. • The writer shows an understanding of grammar for correctness. • The writer utilizes clear paragraphing.
EXPERIMENTING	• The characters in the novel are not generally unique, complex, or compelling, but some effort is apparent. • The writer depends on a basic protagonist/antagonist relationship, which may be unclear. • The writer does not utilize supporting characters, or they do not function within the plot. • The writer uses little technique to introduce, and inform the reader about, the characters.	• The overall conflict of the novel is less original and makes little effort to be intriguing. • The writer depends on a confused sense of external conflict. • The writer does not effectively apply the basic structure of set-up, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and climax. • The writer does not incorporate any subplots, or they do not contribute to the overall conflict.	• The settings in the novel are less intentional and natural, and are not generally well established. • The writer makes little effort to use settings to convey mood. • The writer makes little effort to use settings to reinforce characters. • The writer uses little technique to establish and transition between settings.	• The dialogue in the novel is not generally realistic and effective, or is not used to advance the plot. • The writer makes little effort to use dialogue to increase tension. • The writer makes little effort to use dialogue to define characters. • The writer often expends more space on expository dialogue.	• The novel does not establish a distinct, confident tone. • The writer cannot be easily "heard" in the novel. • The writer displays few unique characteristics in his/her language and word choice. • The writer makes little effort to connect with the audience through his/her perspective.	• The novel demonstrates some weakness in standard writing conventions. • The writer has clearly not proofread the novel for basic spelling, capitalization, punctuation errors. • The writer shows a lack of understanding of grammar for correctness. • The writer utilizes unclear paragraphing, or it is missing entirely.