

Revision Checklist for Story

Beginning - Background

Are the main characters and setting introduced in the beginning? _____

Is background information given that is needed for the story? _____

What is the main problem (or main idea) in the story? _____

Middle – Rising Action and Climax

Does the sequence of events make sense? _____

Does the writer stick to the topic and not go off track? _____

Is there enough narration and not too much dialogue? _____

Is there a climax or high point in the story? _____ What is it? _____

Ending – Falling Action and Resolution

After the climax, do the falling action events wrap up the problem in the story? _____

Does the story come to a satisfying ending or resolution? _____

Are all important questions the reader may have resolved by the end? _____

Word Choice

Are transitions used where needed to make the story flow and make sense? Transitions are important especially when the events change or the setting changes. Transitions are often used at the beginning of paragraphs. _____

Are interesting and descriptive words used (adjectives, adverbs, verbs, nouns)? _____

Are there too many plain words from the “Find a Better Word List?” (Find them and change them to something better.) _____

Is figurative language at least once? (simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, alliteration, hyperbole, idiom) You don’t have to have each kind, just some kind of figurative language at least once in the story. _____

Are words repeated too often? _____ (Check the beginnings of your sentences and make sure you're not starting with the same word all of the time. Replace the characters' names with pronouns sometimes instead of repeating the name all of the time.)

Are other words used besides "said" (yelled, exclaimed, shouted, whispered, etc.) in the speech tags sometimes? _____

Sentence Fluency

Do the sentences start with a variety of words? (Read the first word in each sentence and make sure you are not repeating too much.) _____

Do the sentences vary in length? (Count the number of words in each sentence and then read the numbers to make sure you do have a variety of lengths.) _____

Read your story out loud to someone. Does it flow smoothly? _____

Presentation

Is the heading done correctly in the right hand corner? (Name – first and last, capitalized correctly, Date, Period) _____

Is the title capitalized correctly? _____ (first word, last word, and all important words) (Do not capitalize articles or small prepositions unless they are the first or last word)

Are all paragraphs indented? _____

Is the story long enough? Does it have a definite beginning, middle, and end?

Is the whole story double spaced except for the heading? _____

Is the final draft the regular font and color? _____

Is there anything extra to earn a 4? _____ (nearly perfect conventions, lots of detail, etc.)

Editing

Are most words spelled correctly? _____

Is the capitalization mostly correct? _____

Is the punctuation mostly correct? _____

Are the words in the proper tenses? (not switching between past and present tense) _____

Are most of the sentences complete? (No problems with run-ons or fragments) _____

Did the writer punctuate dialogue correctly and change paragraphs for new speakers?

_____ Did the writer divide the paper into paragraphs in the correct places? _____

Read over your paper with at least three other people.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____