

Short Story Rubric

	5	4	3	2	1
Ideas _____ / 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story implies or states a clear and insightful theme. The story includes an interesting plot with rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, and resolution. The story shows a sensitive understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The setting of the story is presented clearly, showing time, geographical setting, and environment. The characters in the story are developed and believable. The story shows originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story implies or states a clear theme. The story includes a credible plot with rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, and resolution. The story shows an understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The setting of the story is presented, including time, geographical setting, and environment. The characters in the story are somewhat developed and generally credible. The story shows some originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story implies or states a theme, but the theme may not be clear. The story includes a plot, but one or more elements (rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, or resolution) may be weak or missing. The story shows a partial understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The setting of the story is generally presented, but one element (time, geographical setting, or environment) may be weak or missing. The characters in the story are incompletely developed and not always credible. The story only occasionally shows some originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story may not imply or state a theme, and the theme is not clear. The story includes a plot, but it lacks more than one element (rising action, foreshadowing, conflict, or resolution). The story shows little understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The story lacks one or more element of setting (time, geographical setting, or environment) and physical or emotional setting is unclear. The characters in the story are incompletely developed and rarely credible. The story shows little originality and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short story has no theme. The story has no plot. The story shows no understanding of the complexity of the content and subjects. The story presents no setting. The characters in the story are not developed and not believable. The story shows no originality or creativity.
Organization _____ / 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening is interesting and catches attention. The plot has an implied beginning, middle, and end. The rising action builds to a climax. The falling action is logical in sequence. The resolution wraps up the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening is adequate but not entirely attention-getting. The plot's beginning, middle, and end are not entirely clear. The rising action builds somewhat to a climax. The falling action is not entirely logical in sequence. The resolution incompletely wraps up the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening is not entirely satisfactory and does not catch the reader's attention. The plot's beginning, middle, and end are not clear. The rising action builds only weakly to a climax. The falling action is not logical or credible. The resolution is less than satisfactory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening is unsatisfactory and gives the reader little incentive to continue with the story. The plot lacks a beginning, middle, or end. The story includes a climax but does not include rising action. Falling action occurs but makes little sense. The resolution is not satisfactory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story's opening gives the reader not reason to continue with the story. No plot is developed. No climax is included. The story has no falling action. The story has no resolution.
Voice _____ / 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is consistent throughout the story. The writer's choice of narrative voice is generally appropriate to the story's theme. The writer mostly shows actions and emotions but sometimes "tells" the reader what is happening. The narrator's voice is consistent and generally effective throughout the story. The narrator's voice is generally appropriate to the content of the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is generally consistent but slips at times. The writer's choice of narrative voice is generally appropriate to the story's theme, but not always. The writer only sometimes shows actions and emotions and more often "tells" the reader what is happening. The narrator's voice is sometimes inconsistent and not always effective. The narrator's voice is generally appropriate to the content, but not always. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is not always consistent or effective. The writer's choice of narrative voice is sometimes inappropriate to the story's theme. The writer generally "tells" the reader what is happening as regards actions or emotions. The narrator's voice is generally inconsistent and ineffective. The narrator's voice is sometimes inappropriate to the content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of view is not consistent or effective. The writer's choice of narrative voice is often inappropriate to the story's theme. The writer only "tells" the reader what is happening as regards actions or emotions. The narrator's voice is not consistent or effective. The narrator's voice is often inappropriate to the content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No point of view is attempted. The narrative voice is inappropriate to the theme. The writer does not address actions or emotions. The narrator's voice is not discernible. The narrator's voice is not appropriate to the content.
Word Choice _____ / 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word choice is generally precise and accurate throughout the story. Sensory details are included throughout the story. The tone expresses the author's attitude. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word choice is mostly precise and accurate, but not throughout the story. Sensory details are included occasionally but not throughout the story. The tone often expresses the author's attitude but not always. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word choice is only sometimes precise and accurate, and not throughout the story. Sensory details are only occasionally included. The tone occasionally expresses the author's attitude, but not often. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word choices are generally not precise or accurate. Descriptive phrasing is rarely used. The tone is largely hard to discern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word choices are haphazard and inappropriate. Descriptive phrasing is not used. No tone is evident.
Sentence Fluency _____ / 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences are varied in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs flow smoothly together to form an identifiable style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences are somewhat varied in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs flow together but may not form an identifiable style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure but could use more variety. Sentences and paragraphs do not always flow together well and an identifiable style may be lacking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences rarely vary in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs may not flow together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences do not vary in length and structure. Sentences and paragraphs do not flow together.
Conventions _____ / 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost all words are spelled correctly. The story contains almost no errors in English usage or grammar. The story contains almost no error sin punctuation and not errors with quotation marks in dialogue. The story contains almost no errors in capitalization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some spelling errors occur, but not enough to impede understanding. The story contains some errors in usage or grammar, but not enough to impede understanding. The story contains some errors in punctuation, but not enough to impede understanding. The story contains a few errors in capitalization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some spelling errors may impede understanding. Errors in usage or grammar may impede understanding at times. Errors in punctuation may impede understanding at times, and dialogue may be unclear. Errors in capitalization may intrude on understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling errors impede understanding. The story contains numerous errors in usage or grammar. Errors in punctuation often impede understanding and dialogue is very difficult to follow. The story contains numerous errors in capitalization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous spelling errors prevent understanding. Numerous errors in usage or grammar impede understanding. Numerous errors in punctuation impede understanding, and dialogue cannot be determined. Numerous errors in capitalization impede understanding.

TOTAL _____ / 30