

Descriptive Writing Rubric
 “At the Ranche” story

<div>Level</div> <div>Criteria</div>	Exemplary	Proficient	Satisfactory	Basic	Emerging
Uses different sentence patterns and lengths effectively	Has a variety of complex and simple sentences that are sophisticated engaging and keeps reader interest throughout	Has a variety of complex and simple sentences that are mostly engaging .	Has a variety of complex and simple sentences that are partially engaging	Little attention to sentence patterns minimal audience engagement .	
Uses at least 4 “ly” adverbs either at the beginning or in the middle (vary them and bury them)	Uses 8 or more adverbs in a convincing manner to engage the audience.	Uses 4 or less adverbs in an effective manner to interest the audience.	Uses less than 4 adverbs in a straightforward manner that generally holds the attention of the audience.	Uses less than 4 adverbs in an ineffective manner that does little to sustain attention of the audience.	
Uses at least 4 transition or connection words	Uses 8 or more transition words in a precise manner to clarify understanding.	Uses 4 or less transition words in a logical manner to support understanding.	Uses 4 or less transition words in a simplistic manner to partially support understanding.	Only uses 1 or 2 transition words manner and does little to assist understanding.	
Sentences starters are capitalized and endings have the correct punctuation	Sentences starters are capitalized and endings have the correct punctuation	One mistake with sentences starters and endings	two mistakes with sentences starters and endings	three mistake with sentences starters and endings	
Uses of personification verbs	Uses 2 or more personification verbs which linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.	Uses 2 personification verbs that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately	Uses less than 2 personification verbs writer uses verbs that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Uses 1 or 2 personification words but they don’t make sense or detract from the meaning	