# Sample Smarter Balanced Narrative Writing Rubric for the CA Standards
## Grades 3-8

Supporting California's Standards

| Score | Narrative Focus | Organization | Elaboration of Narrative | Language and Vocabulary | Conventions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | The narrative, real or imagined, is clearly focused and maintained throughout: <br>● Effectively establishes a setting, narrator and/or characters. | The narrative, real or imagined, has an effective plot helping create unity and completeness: <br>● Effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies. <br>● Logical sequence of events from beginning to end. <br>● Effective opening and closure for audience and purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, provides thorough and effective elaboration using details, dialogue, and description: <br>● Effective use of a variety of narrative techniques that advance the story or illustrate the experience. | The narrative, real or imagined, clearly and effectively expresses experiences or events: <br>● Effective use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language clearly advance the purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a strong command of conventions: <br>● Few, if any, errors, in usage and sentence formation <br>● Effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. |
| 3 | The narrative, real or imagined, is adequately focused and generally maintained throughout: <br>● Adequately establishes a setting, narrator, and/or characters. | The narrative, real or imagined, has an evident plot helping create a sense of unity and completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected: <br>● Adequate use of a variety of transitional strategies. <br>● Adequate sequence of events from beginning to end. <br>● Adequate opening and closure for audience and purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, provides adequate elaboration using details, dialogue, and description: <br>● Adequate use of a variety of narrative techniques that generally advance the story or illustrate the experience. | The narrative, real or imagined, adequately expresses experiences or events: <br>● Adequate use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language generally advance the purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates an adequate command of conventions: <br>● Some errors in usage and sentence formation but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed. <br>● Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. |
| 2 | The narrative, real or imagined, is somewhat maintained and may have a minor drift in focus: <br>● Inconsistently establishes a setting, narrator, and/or characters. | The narrative, real or imagined, has an inconsistent plot, and flaws are evident: <br>● Inconsistent use of basic transitional strategies with little variety. <br>● Uneven sequence of events from beginning to end. <br>● Opening and closure, if present are weak. <br>● Weak connection among ideas. | The narrative, real or imagined, provides uneven, cursory elaboration using partial and uneven details, dialogue, and description: <br>● Narrative techniques, if present, are uneven and inconsistent. | The narrative, real or imagined, unevenly expresses experiences or events: <br>● Partial or weak use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language that may not advance the purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a partial command of conventions: <br>● Frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning. <br>● Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. |
| 1 | The narrative, real or imagined, may be maintained but may provide little or no focus: <br>● May be very brief <br>● May have a major drift <br>● Focus may be confusing or ambiguous. | The narrative, real or imagined, has little or no discernable plot: <br>● Few or no transitional strategies are evident <br>● Frequent extraneous ideas may intrude. | The narrative, real or imagined, provides minimal elaboration using little or no details, dialogue, and description: <br>● Use of narrative techniques is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant. | The narrative, real or imagined, expression of ideas, is vague, lacks clarity or is confusing: <br>● Uses limited language <br>● May have little sense of purpose. | The narrative, real or imagined, demonstrates a lack of command of conventions: <br>● Errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscured. |
| 0 | A response gets no credit if it provides no evidence of the ability to write a narrative text. | | | | |