

2026 Northern Narratives Prose Standards

Points	Ideas	Technical Skill	Voice
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas are not developed• Little focus and intent unclear• Characters or figures (if applicable) are not developed• Weak point of view	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas are not organized and there is no sense of movement through the piece• Grammar and phrasing need improvement• Sentence structure is repetitive• Many errors in spelling, punctuation, and conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Little personality expressed; language is flat and uninteresting• No style that invites trust of the writer's skills• Does not evoke emotion in the reader• Pacing is awkward and hinders reading experience
2			
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas are somewhat developed• Piece is partially focused and intent is sometimes clear• Characters or figures (if applicable) are somewhat developed• Point of view comes across intermittently	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas are somewhat organized and convey the sense of movement through the piece• Some grasp of grammar and phrasing• Sentence structure is fairly varied• A few errors in spelling, punctuation, and conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some personality expressed through varied language• Style that demonstrates some skill and confidence of writer• Evokes some emotion in the reader• Pacing is smooth at times but awkward at others
4			
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas are developed• Piece is fairly focused and intent is mostly clear• Characters or figures (if applicable) are developed through dialogue, narration, and action• Strong point of view	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas are organized and lead the reader through the piece• Good grasp of grammar and phrasing• Sentence structure is varied and sometimes complex• Good spelling, punctuation, and conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong personality expressed through varied language• Style that demonstrates competent skill and confidence of writer• Evokes emotion in the reader• Pacing is mostly smooth
6			
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas are well developed• Piece is focused and intent is clear• Characters or figures (if applicable) are complex and well developed through dialogue, narration, and action• Unique point of view	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas are well organized to best lead the reader through the piece• Excellent grasp of grammar and phrasing• Sentence structure is varied and complex• Mastery of spelling, punctuation, and other conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vivid personality expressed through varied and memorable language• Unique style that demonstrates high skill and confidence of writer• Evokes deep emotion in the reader• Pacing is smooth and deliberate
8			